[President.]

Appendix.

***Vide* Answer to Question No. 82.**

Roads.	No. of buses plying.	Number run by		Weight in tons.			
		Travancoreans.	Foreigners.				
Trivandrum—Nagercoil ...	23			Vehicles of 1 ton chassis		No.	5
				Do.	1¼	Do. No.	4
				Do.	1½	Do. No.	15
Trivandrum—Quilon ...	1	31	14	Do.	2½	Do. No.	6
				Do.	3	Do. No.	4
Kottarakara—Kottayam ...	6			Do.	3½	Do. No.	4
Kottayam—Mundakayam ...	15			Do.	4	Do. No.	7
						Total No.	45

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*Contd.*)

DEMAND XII—EDUCATION—(*Contd.*)

Motion 210.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Narayana Pillai, you wanted your two motions Nos. 210 and 211 to be discussed together. I find that they are cuts under two different items in the Budget. So, I think, they will have to be discussed separately.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): My arguments may be advanced in moving the one; and the other I will move separately. I beg to move the following motion:—

210. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 67,755 under Inspectors by Rs. 100.

By means of this motion, I seek to invite the attention of the Government to the condition of teachers in the Vernacular Schools of the State. In the Vernacular Schools for Boys, in the High School, the Middle School and the Primary Sections, all put together, we have got about 5,000 teachers under the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. It has oftentimes been brought to the notice of this House that the poor pittance that is allowed to the majority of these teachers is hardly sufficient.

PRESIDENT: That comes more properly under motion 224 which proposes a reduction in the lump provision under Vernacular Education. I thought you were going to speak about the Inspectorate.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am proceeding to the Inspectorate.

On a prior occasion when the unsatisfactory condition of the pay of these teachers was discussed in this House, Mr. Hodgson who was then in charge of the Education Department of the State, told us that, if you wanted cheap education all that was possible was only to give the present pay to these teachers. Now, the condition of these teachers, I fear, is not quite fully realised by the persons who control the Education Department. The majority of these teachers, as may be seen from the budget provision, get only Rs. 14 each. Now it is hardly sufficient under the present circumstances and in these strenuous times to enable a person to live decently. Further, these teachers have to dress elegantly to command respect and also to live in such a fashion as may not be derogatory to the calling to which they belong. When such is the condition, the question naturally arises whether an indiscriminate transfer of a teacher from his native village is a justifiable action. I know, Sir, that Government have already noticed this fact and have issued necessary orders that, as far as possible, teachers should be retained in their native centres. But the violation of that rule is so rampant that I have been obliged to interpellate Government on a prior occasion, and also to ask the Government to provide the necessary safeguards in the interests of these teachers that they are not unnecessarily transferred from their native villages. On that occasion Government said that there was absolutely no necessity to record the reasons for the transfer of these teachers. My friend, Mr. Parameswara Aiyar, who was in charge of that question, told me that the Government were prepared to raise a conclusive presumption as to the propriety of all these transfers and were not prepared to go any further. I am submitting that, if the Government would look into the question, it might be seen that transfers have been made by the inspecting staff in such a fashion as to cause very serious hardship to these teachers. If a teacher is retained in his native village, probably he will be able to eke out his livelihood with the small pittance that he gets as teacher. But once he is transferred from his house and sent to a far-off place, the question arises whether he will be able to engage a cook for himself or a servant to assist him, or to pay the rent for his lodging, and whether for all these things the fourteen rupees that is paid to him by the Government would be sufficient. That is the question which demands serious consideration. It is therefore that I am submitting that the reasons for which the transfers are made should be recorded. If the reasons are recorded, Government can easily find out whether the transfers are justifiable or not. But so long as it is not done, any hazy explanation that the transfer has been necessitated by the exigency of the department or by the misbehaviour on the part of the teacher, can be easily put forward and nobody will be in a position to check the propriety of the transfer. The condition of these teachers is extremely pitiable and any relief in the direction of minimising the expenditure that a teacher has necessarily to

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

meet, should certainly be welcomed. The necessity for outward appearance in the matter of dress and all other things would consume the whole of the sum of Rs. 14 that the teacher is paid. Probably, many of them are dining with Duke Humphrey. Government would think that therefore they are leading an aristocratic life and that they may get on well even without any addition or increment to their pay. But the condition of the aerated stomach is imaginable and I would submit that to keep these teachers in that condition or to ask them to do their work in the school is certainly not very pleasant to contemplate. For example, I know a teacher, a native of my own place, who has been appointed in Todupuzha or Minachil. Every morning from 8 to 10 A. M. he has to cook; and in the heat of the sun he has to run up perspiring to the school. Naturally after such an experiment in the kitchen and under the sun, one can more or less imagine how far the teacher would be able to concentrate his attention upon the boys presented before him for instruction. He slides certainly, though not voluntarily, into the realm of sleep; and say after 2 o' clock wakes up slowly, feeling as much refreshed as his semi-starvation would permit. Naturally he is only able to give such meagre and lifeless instruction as is possible under these circumstances. I am submitting that a consideration of the condition of these teachers makes it absolutely necessary that all unnecessary and wanton transfers should be discouraged by the Government. As far as possible they should be retained in their native villages or in the vicinity thereof.

The case of the girls appointed in Girls' Schools is much worse. The Inspectress of Girls' Schools also probably does not realise the difficulty to which these girls are put. Many of these girls are quite young and after getting themselves qualified by passing the Middle School or Higher Examination seek some sort of employment owing to the fact that they are hovering on the fringes of poverty. In the case of these girls also, the salary, as I see in the budget presented to this House, is generally only Rs. 14. If one of these girls is transferred from her native village to a distant village, how can that girl proceed to that place without some female assistance? It is extremely difficult. She has necessarily to take her mother or some other female guardian with her. If no such woman is also taken naturally there is the necessity to have a female servant besides. All the necessary house-hold expenses of these women have to be met out of this Rs. 14. I am submitting, Sir, we can more or less imagine the extreme difficulty and the pinch of poverty to which the school-mistress will be put. There also, therefore, it is an extremely embarrassing situation that is being created by indiscriminate transfers. Further, we see that when the situation reaches the limits of absolute impossibility all manner of imaginable and unimaginable misbehaviour would be resorted to by these teachers, males and females. Because it is a question of keeping body and soul together and in a struggle of that description the question of proper conduct, etc., will

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inevitably be lost sight of. So, to avoid all this contingency, I would press upon the attention of Government the wisdom and necessity of keeping these teachers, especially the girls, in their native villages as far as possible. It is to invite the attention of the Government to this aspect of the question that I have brought forward this motion. I interpellated Government on a prior occasion and the answer given was, I am sorry to observe, extremely unsatisfactory. With these words, I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I have very great pleasure in supporting Mr. Narayana Pillai's motion. I am extremely glad that he has brought this important matter to the notice of this House. I support the motion on another important point also, *viz.*, the point of morality. It is not very desirable that a young man married to a young wife should leave the wife at home and go to other places. It may end in his "having a sweetheart at every port" as the sailors often have. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: Why should they leave their wives behind?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): On account of poverty; that is what Mr. Narayana Pillai said.

In the case of women, it is harder still. I am extremely glad that this point was stressed by Mr. Narayana Pillai. I have had scores of people coming to me asking me to recommend to the Inspectress that they be transferred to the places where their husbands live. I was rather afraid to approach Miss Carrapiet who, I know, is a very strict lady, on this point, although I quite sympathised with the request made to me. What God has put together, let no man or woman put asunder. (*Laughter.*) It is bad enough for a man to leave his house and go away. It is much harder for a woman to leave behind her husband and go to distant places. Certainly, as stated by the worthy President, a man can take his wife with him if he could afford it. But, the woman, how could she take her husband also with her? Probably he may be employed elsewhere. It will be very hard that the husband should give up his job if he has to accompany his wife. Unless the husband happens to be unemployed and goes with her, I dot think it is possible for the wife to take her husband along with her to the place where she is transferred. Under these circumstances, it is extremely hard that the wife should live alone without her husband. There is great danger in these matters. So, on public grounds of morality, I would earnestly ask the Director of Public Instruction to keep this important point in view in the posting of teachers.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai raised two points, I think. The first was the difficulty that the teachers undergo through being transferred from their native villages. With regard to that point, the orders of the Education Department are that, as far as possible, teachers should be retained in their native villages.

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[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson how many teachers there are who belong to the Ambalapuzha taluk and are retained in the Ambalapuzha taluk?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot answer that question off-hand.

Supposing in Muvattupuzha there are 200 teachers eligible for employment in Vernacular schools and there are only places for 100, what are we to do for the other one hundred teachers? Are we to build new schools to employ those teachers even if there is not a sufficient number of pupils to study there? All that the Government can do is to pass orders which are fair and to see that those orders are carried out.

The next question which Mr. Narayana Pillai raised was that of pay. When it comes to the question of pay, we have to deal with one of the most difficult questions that any Government can be faced with.

PRESIDENT: I think he mentioned it only incidentally as a reason for exercising caution in the matter of transfer of teachers.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The pay of the teachers is not so high as some of us would wish. But in regard to that, I would like to mention that that matter has also engaged the attention of Government.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know whether it is not the recognised policy of Government to retain the teachers in their native villages?

PRESIDENT: That is the policy—that is what Mr. Stephenson says.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Within the last twelve years the pay of the lowest paid Vernacular school teachers has been doubled. In the revision which was completed in 1914, their pay was raised from Rs. 7 to Rs. 10. In 1919 it was further raised to Rs. 12, and in the last revision, it was raised to Rs. 14. Comparing the pay granted to teachers in British India, this pay is quite fair. The following is the scale of pay as recommended for adoption there when funds permit:—Standard I, Rs. 8; Standard II, Rs. 10; Standard III, Rs. 12; Standard IV, Rs. 15; and above Standard V, Rs. 20 and above. The teacher after training gets such an allowance as will raise his monthly pay to Rs. 10, if his pay is less than Rs. 10. In Travancore, the teachers of the first three classes are paid Rs. 14 and when they are trained they get Re. 1 as allowance. Sir, I do not think I need say much more with regard to this point.

Mr. Hoogewerf raised the point that the difficulty of transferring teachers from their native places was particularly hard in the case of women teachers. I know, as a matter of fact, that the Inspectress is paying very careful attention to this matter. Recently, I may point out, with regard to the appointment of an Assistant Inspectress, that no

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teacher in Trivandrum was willing to accept this place because it involved a transfer from her own place.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I beg to support Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's motion. He has described graphically the difficulties which the teachers undergo on account of their low salary when at the same time they are obliged to serve outside their own villages on this small pay. It has been asked by Mr. Stephenson how, in case there are 200 teachers in one taluk and if there are only 100 places there, it is possible to engage all these 200 teachers in the same taluk. Necessarily they will have to go outside. It would appear from this that at present all the available hands in a particular taluk have been employed in that particular taluk, and it was sheer necessity that induced the Department to send out persons to other centres. But, as a matter of fact, the complaints would not have arisen at all if such had been the case. The complaint has arisen because there are vacancies existing in a particular taluk and teachers belonging to that taluk, and employed elsewhere, applying for transfer to those schools in that particular taluk to which they belong.

PRESIDENT: I thought that the village was the unit, not the taluk. The argument was they should be employed in their native village, not in their taluk.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I say they should be employed at least in the same taluk.

PRESIDENT: It is only if they are in the same village that the necessity for renting a house, for employing servants, etc., will disappear. If they are only in the same taluk, they may still have the same difficulty.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): They can be employed at least within easy reach of their village. In most of our taluks, the schools are situated very near. The distance between their home and the schools is not very great and they can reside within a radius of two or three miles. I know, as a matter of fact, in some places teachers reside some six miles away.

PRESIDENT: You cannot expect punctuality from teachers residing so far away.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): As a matter of fact, they are trying to be as punctual as possible, and I can quote examples wherein for the simple reason that they have to serve as school-master in a particular school they have to reside away from their native villages. The only request is that, whenever facilities exist for teachers being put in schools in their own villages or in schools adjacent to their own villages, it ought to be the policy of the Department to see that the transfers are so effected as to facilitate the teachers to serve in their own villages. As a matter of fact, we see that several persons are serving in very distant taluks.

PRESIDENT: Even when vacancies exist in their own taluks?

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[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Even when vacancies exist in their own taluks, and even when a teacher from one taluk is willing to be transferred to another taluk which is his native place while the latter consents to go to the former taluk which is his native place. I will give an example. A school-master at Neyyattinkara is serving at Kottarakara, and a school-master at Kottarakara is serving at Neyyattinkara. The Neyyattinkara man wishes to be transferred to Kottarakara and the Kottarakara man wishes to be transferred to Neyyattinkara. Even then, facilities are not given. It is desirable that, in the matter of transfers, the authorities concerned should be more sympathetic to the teachers and should give them, as far as possible, facilities to serve in their own taluks. With these observations, I support the motion of Mr. Narayana Pillai.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. In doing so, I must submit to the Council that there are real complaints from very many of these Vernacular school teachers in the matter of their transfers. I believe Mr. Stephenson said that it was on account of the difficulty experienced by the Department for want of places that such complaints arose. I will presently mention, for the information of Mr. Stephenson, a concrete instance to prove that his statement is not correct. There is a Primary Vernacular school at Kottarakara; there was a teacher in that school by name Gopala Pillai, nephew of a Vakil in that taluk—who is myself. He was living with me, and was working in the school which is next to my house. When the school re-opened, it appears that he got orders to the effect that he was transferred to Chattannur which was 20 miles away from Kottarakara and 25 miles away from his native village. The order came to me as a surprise. Next time when I came to Trivandrum I ran up to the Inspector and asked him why that transfer was made. He told me that it was nothing personal. On a previous occasion I had interpellated in this Council about the collection of a reduced rate of fees in the Training School, in the answer to which at least some mistake committed by some one or other officer along with the Inspector came to light. Probably on account of that he suspected that I would take this matter as personal. But I told him that the man who was appointed in the Kottarakara school in his place belonged to Shencottah and that he was transferred from Kuzhittura. I asked him why a Kuzhitturai man should be sent to Kottarakara in the place of a man who was a native of that place. I further told him that it would be enough if he was transferred to Mannadi where also we have got a house to live in. I need only say that he was not transferred to any of my places but to a place which was 10 miles away from Kottarakara. When I next met him he told me that, if he wanted a transfer to the Kottarakara School which is in the same district, I might ask the local Assistant Inspector of Schools. I need not say anything more.

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MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I know the school to which he was last posted?

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): To the school at Vakkana which is 8 or 10 miles away from Kottarakara, a place where one cannot get a house to live in. As a matter of fact, he was starving in the noon. He has to go after his meals direct to the school and walk for 10 miles. Though it is against rules to live at a distance, I allowed him to do so, telling him that I would see to it if anything happened to him. This is a transfer which was effected not on account of the exigencies of the Department, as Mr. Stephenson has said. There are several other instances; but I do not want to mention them here. I submit this in order that Mr. Stephenson may see that transfers give rise to real complaints.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, the problem of transferring these poor teachers to their native places could have been solved long ago if only the authorities had tried to do so. It is a legitimate cause for complaint by these teachers. They always find it difficult to go to their own houses at least once or twice in a year except during the vacation. If they could at least have been transferred to places near their own taluks they could have had this advantage and the distress due to their being employed in distant places could have been minimised. It is time for the Director of Public Instruction to make an enquiry into the matter and to try to give effect to the policy already recognised by the Government, *viz.*, that these poor teachers should be employed, as far as possible, in their own taluks. With these remarks, I support the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I was rather anxious to speak on this motion. The subject at the first blush would seem rather unimportant because it deals mainly with the transfer of some low paid individuals in the service of Government which many ordinarily be left to the head of the Department. Arguments of various kinds were advanced and some of the speakers put their case in very clear language and emphasised on the suffering that falls to the lot of these poor teachers, both male and female. I quite concede that the fund of human misery in the world is not going to be removed whatever be the directions which the Government may give. Some people may be happy, others may be unhappy; some people may be lucky, others may be unlucky. All the same, by a proper attempt made in that direction, we shall be able to minimise the suffering on the part of these hard-worked officers in the service of Government. Their pay is small. Smallness of pay is, at any rate, not the monopoly of the teacher. There are many employees in other departments also under the same difficulty. That is a general question. I have advocated in this very hall that the pay of the teachers should be raised. But the general question of finding funds has to be tackled very carefully. Therefore I do not wish to speak on that point just now.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

With regard to the transfers, a clear case has been made out. The hardships caused on account of the frequent transfers effected are felt more by women than by men. It may be stated that these are the days of liberty and freedom. But we are accustomed to look upon ladies as wanting protection—protection by men and protection by Government. And it is very much more difficult for a lady to travel with one child at the breast, another on the shoulder and a third being led by the hand, and nobody to accompany them, as it often happens. The word 'servant' was heard mentioned by many speakers. The term 'servant' has absolutely no application to this kind of officers. If they can afford to have servants, would they accept a pay of Rs. 14? So, the fact of these teachers having servants may be conveniently forgotten. (*Laughter.*)

Now, Mr. Hoogewerf raised a point that the marriage tie is sacred and inviolable. I agree with him that it is so. Therefore at the time of the transfer, care should be taken that no trouble is created; for that would be giving the departmental officers liberty to look into the facts of each case. That will give them too much work. It will not be to the good of the teachers themselves. I have to say that what I say in regard to that point refers to all teachers—women teachers particularly, who are not married. If a woman teacher happens to be a married woman, and her husband is employed in another Department, in order to keep the marriage life quite all right two departmental heads have to unite. (*Laughter.*) That is not possible. If the Director of Public Instruction has no objection to transfer a woman to a particular place, his immediate neighbour, Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai, whose jurisdiction may extend over the husband, may not be able to agree with him. I am referring to cases in which women teachers are not in this plight. The fact that men and women teachers are not treated properly in the matter of pay is not one upon which we can congratulate ourselves. Now, if a lady passes the B. A., she sometimes gets very much more than a young man who takes the same degree. If a lady passes the M. B. C. M. from the Madras Medical College, she gets Rs. 150 to start with, and the man who has also passed M. B. C. M. in the same College gets only Rs. 10. Preferential treatment is therefore given to ladies in other departments. When this is the case, why should not preferential treatment be given to ladies in the Education Department? That is a question which has to be considered. The difficulties that were present to the mind of the Director of Public Instruction while he was speaking are not real. It is possible to arrange for people being kept in their own place without detriment to departmental interests. It may not be possible in all cases, but in the vast majority of cases it will be possible, because the schools are distributed throughout Travancore and it is only in particular places that teachers are to be appointed in preference. It is not the case that these schools are situated in one place. There may be exceptional cases,

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But the generality alone need be considered. I think, Sir, that with regard to the proposal to retain a woman teacher in her own taluk, not her own village, there is considerable force in what Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai said. If a woman is in her own place, even if she is one or two miles away from the school she will keep up punctuality, etc. If a woman is removed from her house, she will not be very vigilant in teaching as she will have to attend to her own domestic interests.

One word more I have to say. It is not enough if the Director of Public Instruction says that "as far as possible" it is being done. "As far as the law lays down" are words which we lawyers cannot trust. Whether the rules are being conformed to, how many complaints there are against the system and in how many cases the people fail to get justice—these enquiries should be made in a regular manner without any bias. I commend the motion to the acceptance of the House.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): ഞാൻ പ്രേമയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തെ ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെയിടയിൽ ഏറ്റവും കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരാണ് മലയാളം പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാരും ഉപാദ്ധ്യായികളും. അവർ മറ്റു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിലെ സപ്ലൈ ശമ്പളക്കാരായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതൽ ചുമതലയുള്ള ജോലിയാണ് വഹിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇത്ര വളരെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള കൃത്യങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നവക്കു കഴിയുന്നതും കഷ്ടതകുറച്ചു സൌകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർൺമെൻറിൻെറ ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്ത കടമയാണു്. എക്സൈസ്, ഫാറസ്റ്റ്, ലാൻഡ്റവന്യൂ, പൊലീസ മുതലായ തുറകളിൽ ചുരുങ്ങിയ ശമ്പളക്കാക്കു മിക്കവക്കും മറു പ്രകാരത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ വരവിനു വഴിയുണ്ടെന്നു് ജനങ്ങൾക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ രണ്ടു കൂട്ടരും പെൻഷൻ പറ്റി പിരിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷമുള്ള അവരുടെ കാലക്ഷേപത്തിൻെറ സ്ഥിതിയിൽനിന്നു് ഈ സംഗതി മനസ്സിലാക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. മലയാളം പള്ളിക്കൂടം ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാക്കു അവരുടെ ആഹാരത്തിനും വസ്ത്രധാരണത്തിനും പോലും മതിയാകാത്ത ഒരു തുകയാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ ശമ്പളമായി ലഭിച്ചുവരുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു അവരുടെ കുടുംബത്തെക്കൂടി രക്ഷിക്കുന്നതിനു മതിയാകയില്ല. അവരെ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളിടത്തോളം സ്വദേശത്തുതന്നെ വച്ചാൽ കഷ്ടതകൾക്കു കുറെയെങ്കിലും ശമനം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതാണു്. ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളവരേയെല്ലാം സ്വദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിച്ചാലും മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ വിദേശികൾവന്നു കഷ്ടതയനുഭവിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻ തരമില്ല. അവിടെനിന്നു പാസ്സാകുന്നവക്കു അവിടെത്തന്നെ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കണം. ഇപ്പോൾ അമ്പലപ്പുഴ മുതലായ മദ്ധ്യതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേയും മറും താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നിന്നാണു്

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിലെ ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാർ അധികവും വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും താലൂക്കിൽ യോഗ്യതയുള്ളവർ ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ അയൽ താലൂക്കുകളിൽനിന്നു നിയമിച്ചാലും കുറെ ഭേദമുണ്ടു്. ഒഴിവുദിവസങ്ങളിൽ അവർക്കു സ്വന്തം ഭവനങ്ങളിൽപോയി അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമല്ലോ. സ്വല്പശമ്പളക്കാരായ ഇവർ ദൂരസ്ഥിതമായ തങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബത്തിലെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്കു സഹായിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ബാലികാബാലന്മാരെ സമാധാനത്തോടെ അഭ്യസിപ്പിക്കാൻ ഇവർക്കു സാധിക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇവർക്കു് ഒരു മതിയായശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

ചില ഉപാദ്ധ്യായമാരുടെ ഭർത്താക്കന്മാർ ഉപാദ്ധ്യായന്മാരായിരിക്കും. അവരെ രണ്ടുപേരേയും ഒരു ദേശത്തു് വയ്ക്കയാണു് നല്ലതു്. രണ്ടുതരം സ്കൂളും ഒരിടത്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ അതിനടുത്ത സ്ഥലത്തെ സ്കൂളിൽ വച്ചാലും മതി.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, with respect to the question raised by Mr. Stephenson, that is to say, if there are 200 teachers who are natives of the Muvattupuzha taluk and there is possibility only to appoint 100 teachers in that taluk, what is the Department to do—now, with respect to that question, Sir, I ask Mr. Stephenson whether the 100 of the eligible teachers are really appointed in Muvattupuzha. They are not. That is my complaint. With respect to my own taluk, I am in a position to assure the Director of Public Instruction that many of the teachers who are there are, in fact, outsiders. Therefore, the teachers who are in my taluk and the teachers who are transferred from my taluk under the orders cited by Mr. Stephenson have both been exiled from their native places and have to be re-transferred to their respective native villages. That is the gravamen of my complaint. I was speaking quite guardedly when I said that teachers ought to be employed at least in the taluks adjoining their native places or villages. Evidently, Mr. Stephenson, while he spoke, ignored that and cited a hypothetical case with regard to 200 teachers. Does the Director take care to see that the 100 teachers who can find room and who can be posted in their native places are really kept there? I may draw the attention of the House to the fact that teachers in heaps proceed to the Inspector of Schools and request him on bended knees that their grievances may be heard. It is an open question whether they get themselves even reflected upon the retina of the eye of the Inspector, for absolutely nothing is being done. I asked the Government how many applications are pending with the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. Absolutely no reply has been given. So I presume that there is a volume of complaint in regard to that matter. It is a legitimate complaint. Then incidentally the question of marriage was raised, I think, by my friend, Mr. Hoogewerf. I have one word regarding

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that. For teachers receiving Rs. 14, how is it possible to marry a wife and decently maintain a family? It is the inability to marry that creates the rub in the rank and file of the teachers. How can they contemplate the question of marriage, in modern circumstances? (*Laughter.*) Oh! God! it is inconceivable in our civilization! It is very far from imagination. It is for this purpose that the teachers should be retained under the watching eyes of their relations so that they may not misbehave. So I am pressing the motion on a variety of grounds, some of which, I am sorry to say, I cannot describe in this House.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, there seems to be no complaint about the orders of Government in this matter. The Government are of the same opinion as the members who have spoken on this motion, namely, that as far as possible the teachers in the Vernacular schools should be employed in their own native places. As I said, the orders of Government are definite and explicit. The complaint is, as far as I can judge, that these orders are not being carried out. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai mentions that teachers are going in groups to the Inspector of Vernacular Schools either asking for transfers or for not being transferred. Sir, my office is not very far from the office of the Inspector of Vernacular Schools. I can only say that, if they get no redress from the Inspector of Vernacular Schools, it is quite open to them to come to me.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from Mr. Stephenson whether it is not against the disciplinary rules for them to represent their grievances personally before the Director of Public Instruction instead of to the immediate superior?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is quite open to a teacher to come to me if he does not get any redress from his immediate superiors.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know from Mr. Stephenson whether the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools now possess powers of transfer?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, they have.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson whether he is aware that the Assistant Inspectors are now asked by the Inspector not to exercise these powers?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not aware of that.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson whether he will enquire as to why the Inspector asked the Assistant Inspectors not to exercise these powers?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think that that matter was brought to my notice before. There are certain cases where the Inspector of Vernacular Schools does make transfers which ordinarily lie within the powers of the Assistant Inspectors of Vernacular Schools. I think it is with the idea

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[President.]

of consolidating the whole scheme of transfers and it only happens at the beginning of the year in order that there may not be a conflict between the transfers made by the Inspector and those made by the Assistant Inspectors. But I do not remember the details.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does the Director of Public Instruction realise that, if a teacher complains against the Inspector, he will be more or less a marked man and that his prospects will be ruined for life?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): If a man who has got a grievance is afraid to represent it to the proper authority he has little hope of getting it redressed.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has Mr. Stephenson been aware that there are complaints about the transfers of teachers?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am aware of that now because I have heard of it in this House.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I did not ask whether Mr. Stephenson *is* aware of it. I expressly asked Mr. Stephenson whether he *has been* aware of such complaints—that is, between the date of his taking charge as Director of Public Instruction and this day.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Individual representations have been made to me from teachers and their transfers are being enquired into.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Have any mistakes been rectified?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not remember the orders passed by me in individual cases. But everything will be done to see that Government orders have been carried out as far as possible.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has Mr. Stephenson enquired into the circumstances of any of these transfers which were complained against?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes. If I get a statement from a teacher who is complaining against a transfer explaining the whole situation, I also get from the Inspector his explanation and from these statements I am able to form my own opinion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has he sent for the complainants and asked them what their complaints were?

PRESIDENT: The facts will be stated in the complaint itself.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am asking whether any complainant was allowed to appear before the Director of Public Instruction to represent his case with regard to the transfer.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Any complainant is also in a position to appear before me.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Has any man been allowed to see Mr. Stephenson with regard to a matter like this?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I daresay some have.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Has he corrected any case?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, I do not think I have.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know whether the transfers effected by the Inspector are always in accordance with the recommendations made by the Assistant Inspectors?

MR J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say that. As a matter of fact, my impression was that the orders of Government in this matter were being carried out. I have not been a very long time in the Department and I have not investigated matters like this. In deference to the wishes of the House, I shall make an enquiry, call for the papers regarding applications for transfers and see to what extent the orders of Government have been carried out. With that assurance, I hope Mr. Narayana Pillai will withdraw his motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, in the light of the assurance given by Mr. Stephenson and in view of the fact that he happens to be new to the department, reserving the right of re-agitating the question, I withdraw the motion. (*Laughter.*)

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 211.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:—

211. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,551 under Inspectresses by Rs. 100.

Motion 212.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir I move:—

212. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 97,444 for controlling agencies by Rs. 100.

Sir, my object in bringing this motion before this House is to point out the unequal distribution of appointments in the Secondary Schools and the appointments made by the Inspector of English Schools. I shall point out how the non-Brahmins fare at the hands of the Inspector. It is

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very glaring to see in the statistics the Brahmin preponderance. Anyone could see this from the statistics supplied to this House in answer to my interpellations. The total strength of graduate teachers and munshies in the English Schools, as it stood when the answer was given, is as follows.—

Brahmin graduate teachers	139;	Munshies	39;	
Christian ,,	69;	,,	3;	
Nayar ,,	25;	,,	15;	
Other non-Brahmin Hindus	13;	,,	7;	

We were under the impression that there were not many applicants from the non-Brahmin Communities for the posts in the Education Department. But from the answers given to some of the interpellations, I find the applications for the three years 1097, 1098 and 1099 were as below.

From Brahmins	...	374;
,, Nayars	...	320;
,, Christians	...	298;
,, Mahomedans	...	34;
,, Ezhavas	...	72;
,, Vellalas	...	28;
,, Nadars	...	10 and so forth.

PRESIDENT: Are they graduate applicants?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes; all of them are graduate applicants. The appointments given for the past three years were, in acting vacancies, Brahmins 28; Christians 10; Nayars 10; and other Hindus 4. Then, within the last three years the graduate teachers confirmed were, Brahmins 19; among them 8 foreigners being included; Christians 16; and Nayars 3. Out of these men who have been confirmed, we find that some of the eight foreigners who are Brahmins have put in only one year and two months' service; but the non-Brahmins who have been confirmed have put in a service ranging between two and ten years. One man is confirmed after a period of ten years and from these any one can understand that the non-Brahmin Hindus—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know what Mr. M. N. Pillai means by foreign Brahmins, whether it includes those imported from Tinnevelly or anywhere outside?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): From anywhere outside Travancore.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does it include anyone living in the country for some years?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It includes all those who are not born subjects of Her Highness the Maha Rani according to the definition supplied by Government.

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PRESIDENT: He goes by the definition.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): From this one can understand that the non-Brahmin Hindus are the worst sufferers in the English School Department. I think the present Inspector of English Schools, Mr. A. Narayana Aiyar, is mainly responsible for this state of affairs. One of the many instances of his partiality is that his own son-in-law, who took his B. A. Degree this year, is posted in a permanent vacancy at his native place—

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether appointments are made by the Inspector?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The recommendations for appointments are made by the Inspector.

PRESIDENT: Is it the Inspector's son-in-law that you mentioned?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes. He took his degree this year and is posted in a permanent vacancy at his native place in the Mavelikara school so that he may be confirmed a few months hence. This vacancy was brought about when Mr. John, the Assistant Inspector of Schools, Kottayam, was appointed as Headmaster.

PRESIDENT: He has not been posted as a permanent man.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I said he is in a permanent vacancy. The man who was there is appointed as Headmaster on probation at Muvattupuzha, and his lien was shifted to Mavelikara where the Inspector's son-in-law referred to above is posted. Again, one Mr. T. S. Narayana Aiyar, a native of Tenkasi, was newly appointed a few days ago in the S. M. V. School in a permanent vacancy overlooking the claims of the sons of the soil. I understand that these appointments have been made pending Government sanction. I can quote several other instances of glaring injustice done by the present Inspector. From the above facts one would think that this Inspector is there to provide appointments for his kith and kin and not for the proper management of secondary education. At this rate, there is no chance for Nayars and other non-Brahmin Hindus in the Education Department for another 25 or 30 years. When I asked Government whether they were aware that the non-Brahmin communities are placed in a disadvantageous position, the answer was that they were not aware. The total disregard shown to the claims of Travancoreans by the Inspector and giving appointments to foreign Brahmins, etc., deserve the immediate attention of Government. I would request the Government to make a thorough enquiry into the matter. Such an officer should be punished if he is found guilty for such communal partiality. Sir, if this state of affairs is to continue, there will be no peace in the country until matters are set right. I appeal to all the members to support my motion.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I heartily support Mr. M. N. Pillai's motion. I wanted not to make a speech on this subject as I have another in my name coming immediately afterwards. But the case

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[The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.]

brought forward by Mr. M. N. Pillai is a very serious one in that the Inspector has appointed his son-in-law who, I believe, hails from Palghat, to an appointment carrying with it about Rs. 50. I think there are some rules and notifications in regard to such matters. As this motion has been put forward now, it should be carefully enquired into and there should be an end to all this nepotism. I have heard it stated by responsible people who never think of saying an untruth, that there is a great deal of jobbery and nepotism going on in the department. Relations, friends, all sorts of people (*laughter*) are being appointed. I am not pleading for Christians or Nayars or Catholics or any other particular community. I am only pleading for justice and fairplay in this matter. All communities who are sons of the soil—subjects of Her Highness the Maha Rani—want equal opportunities and the Educational Department should not be a close preserve for any particular class of people. All those times are past now. I hope Mr. Stephenson will take up this question and bring the offenders to book, so that hereafter, at least, these things may not be repeated.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I agree with Mr. M. N. Pillai in thinking that it is time for Government to make some arrangement with regard to these communal complaints. From the figures quoted by him, it is clear that, in the Education Department, something is wrong and nepotism is rampant. There is a rule that foreigners should not be ordinarily appointed in the public service. We find that these people are appointed in the Education Department and I do not think that there were no applicants other than foreigners for these posts. With regard to the other departments also, there was this question of preferring a particular community, especially the Brahmins, and most of the members of this Council have suggested that a selection board or some other agency may be instituted for the purpose of avoiding these complaints. I have no doubt that, in some cases, in the Education Department, certain teachers are appointed who do not know the vernacular of the country. There is a rule that, up to the third form, all subjects except the English language should be taught in the vernacular. But in the case of teachers who do not know the vernacular of the country, on account of the nepotism practised by some of the officers in the Department the rule is not enforced. So it is high time to enquire into the matter and make some arrangement to avoid those complaints.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha* cum *Kunnatnad*): Sir, I also beg to support the motion. The question of appointments in the different Departments of the State is no doubt the burning question of the day. It is sure to engage the serious attention of the general public and it will continue to be the chief topic of much talk and criticism in the press, the platform and in this Council, until the Government will be pleased to solve that vital problem satisfactorily, giving each community its legitimate due.

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Sir, the so-called unfavoured classes had no admission to some of the Departments in the State until two years ago when you opened the sealed doors of these Departments also to them, although as yet with no tangible profit. The case of the Department under consideration is not of that kind. Here on principle anyone was admitted provided he was duly qualified. Still the figures, as they were read out just now by Mr. M. N. Pillai, are so disappointing as to break the hearts of not only the members of these ill-treated communities but of every right-thinking and impartial man. The duty of this Department is to control not only the intellectual but also the moral education of the people of this country and they have to do it not by precepts alone but also by examples. But I am sorry to say that, in this part of their duty towards the public, the Department has not been very successful. The practice of some does not at all agree with the noble precepts they preach with regard to justice, equity, universal brotherhood, etc. The Maha Raja's College, which has existed for more than sixty years, has but recently taken on its staff one Catholic, through—as Mr. Hoogewerf said—the direct intervention of the present Dewan. Is it that the community had no qualified candidates or because no application was forthcoming? What seemed to us a great mystery was the oversight of the Director in not taking up the application of Dr. P. J. Thomas for consideration when appointments of Professors were made in the College. The nature and cause of the oversight has not been explained and in that unfortunate oversight Travancore had to lose the services of one of her brilliant sons, and a great injustice has been done to the community to which Dr. Thomas belongs. The appointments made, as Mr. M. N. Pillai showed, by the present Inspector of English Schools, tell their own tale. I believe it was in pursuance of the noble policy declared by the Dewan in the last Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, *viz.*, that—

"The policy of Government is that all communities should be given equal opportunities and to remedy their grievances as early as possible. The question of representation of Roman Catholics in the public service will be specially noted."

I believe it was in pursuance of this noble policy that, when the Inspector of English Schools made his appointments in the beginning of this year, out of the 23 new appointments he made, one was reserved for a Catholic graduate. But, as usual, he took good care that the vacancy to which he was appointed was one of a very short duration while, as has been remarked by Mr. M. N. Pillai, a close relation of his was posted to a permanent vacancy. In spite of the high qualification the young man possessed, being a double second class graduate, and the excellent certificates he got from his Headmaster as to his character and teaching abilities, and also in spite of the fact that in that particular school at present there being no history graduate, history is taught by a mathematics graduate, this young man had to leave the department after a service of one month and five days.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): What is his name?

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Todupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Mr. Lenos from Shertallai. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: *"Hear, hear"*.)

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[Mr. Tariatu Kunjitomman.]

Examples could be multiplied *ad nauseam*; but I do not want to do so. Sir, I think that it is the duty of the Government to haul up at once such an officer who has been so persistently working against the oft-repeated policy of Government and to make an example of him. The appointments made by him should be closely and carefully scrutinised by the Government and if he is really found delinquent he must be seriously taken to task and, if necessary, summarily dismissed. Only such stringent measures can have a salutary effect. I am sure only such a step will go a great length to arrive at the goal aimed at by Government.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): വിദ്യാഭ്യാസഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റിലെ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങൾ വർഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതപരമാണെന്നുള്ളതു നാടൊട്ടുക്കു പ്രസിദ്ധമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. സമഭാവനയോടുകൂടി ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിൽ സ്വകൃത്യനിർവ്വഹണത്തിന് ഒരുക്കമില്ലാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ പബ്ലിക്ക് സർവ്വീസിൽനിന്നു പിരിച്ചുവിടേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മെന്റിന്റെ ഒഴിച്ചുകൂടാത്തകൃത്യമാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള നിയമനങ്ങളെ ഓരോ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടും ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ മൗനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു വളരെ ആശ്ചര്യാവഹം തന്നെ. ചില അവസരങ്ങളിൽ ചില ചില്ലറയായ പിശകുകൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ കാണിച്ചു എന്നു വരാം. പിന്നെയും അതു തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ അപ്പോൾ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സഭകളിൽവച്ചു പ്രതിനിധികൾ അതിനെ ഉറുമ്പറകയും ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിക്കുകയും മറ്റും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തുകയുംചെയ്യും. പിന്നെയും ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് മൗനം ദീക്ഷിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതുവളരെ കഷ്ടതരമായിരിക്കും. ഏറ്റവും ധനവ്യയം ചെയ്തു നടത്തിവരുന്ന ഒരു വകുപ്പാണ് എഡ്യുക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറ്. ഉദ്യോഗവിഷയത്തിൽ ഓരോ വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കും ന്യായമായി കിട്ടാനുള്ളതു കിട്ടണമെന്നുപറയുമ്പോൾ അതൊരു വർഗ്ഗീയവഴക്കാണെന്നും രാജ്യത്തിനു ദ്രോഹകരമാണെന്നും ചിലർ പറയുന്നുണ്ട്. മുക്കാൽ കോടിരൂപയോളം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളവും പടിയുമായിട്ടു രാജ്യത്തു ചിലവാകുന്നുണ്ട്. ര ാ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾ അടങ്ങുന്ന വിവിധവർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾക്കു കായ്ക്ഷമതയ്ക്കു ഹാനികൂടാതെ യോഗ്യതാനുസരണം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ് ന്യായം. അതിനെ വിസ്മരിച്ചു ചിലവർഗ്ഗങ്ങളോടു പക്ഷപാതമായി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന നയമാണ് പലഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലും പ്രത്യേകം ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലും കണ്ടുവരുന്നതു്. അതിനാൽ അതിനെ ഏതുമാർഗ്ഗം ആക്ഷേപിച്ചാലും

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മതിയാകയില്ല. ന്യൂലക്ഷത്തിൽ പരം ജനം ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഒരു വലിയ വിഭാഗമായ കത്തോലിക്കരുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിന്നും മലയാളംസ്കൂൾഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരായോ ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് സ്കൂൾ ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാരായോ വല്ലവരുമുണ്ടോ എന്നൊരു ചോദ്യം നിയമസഭയിൽ ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചതിന് ഇല്ലെന്നു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു. കത്തോലിക്കരുടെയിടയിൽനിന്ന് ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് വകുപ്പിലും മലയാളം വകുപ്പിലും കൂടി എത്ര വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാരുണ്ടെന്നു ചോദിച്ചതിനു കത്തോലിക്കരുടെ വഗ്ദ്ധതിരിച്ചു കണക്ക് എടുത്തു പറയുവാൻ പ്രയാസമാണെന്നു ൻൻ തുലാത്തിലെ യോഗത്തിൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു. ഇവിടത്തെ സെൻസസ്സ് റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽഓരോ വഗ്ഗക്കാരേയും പ്രത്യേകം തിരിച്ചു കണക്കെടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ഇതത്ര പ്രയാസമുള്ളതെന്നു വിചാരിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. ഡയറക്ടർ തന്റെകീഴിലുള്ള രണ്ടു ശാഖയിലേയും ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർമാക്ക് ഒരുത്തരവയച്ചാൽ കണക്ക് ഉടൻ വരും. മനസ്സുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഒരുപ്രയാസവുമില്ല. ഈ കണക്കുകൾ വരുമ്പോൾ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ നിയമനം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള അനീതി പ്രത്യക്ഷമാകുമെന്നുള്ള ഭയം കൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ കണക്കെടുക്കാൻ പ്രയാസമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞൊഴിഞ്ഞതെന്നേ ജനങ്ങൾ വിചാരിക്കൂ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം വകയ്ക്കായി ധാരാളം പണം വ്യയംചെയ്യുന്ന ഒരു ജനവിഭാഗമാണ് കത്തോലിക്കർ. അവക്ക് ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ പ്രവേശനം നൽകാത്തതു വളരെ കഷ്ടമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ പ്രജാസഭാകാലത്ത് ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളിൽ കത്തോലിക്കർക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ ജനസംഖ്യയ്ക്കോ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനോ അനുസരണമായി പ്രവേശനം നല്കീട്ടില്ലെന്നും ഗവർണ്മെൻറു ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നും പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനു ദിവാൻജി അവർകളും തന്നെ വേണ്ടുംവണ്ണം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. പല അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഇങ്ങനെ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതല്ലാതെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറ് ഒന്നും ചെയ്കകാണുന്നില്ല. ഉദ്യോഗദാനവിഷയത്തിൽ വഗ്ഗീയപക്ഷപാതം കാണിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെയെല്ലാം പിരിച്ചുവിടണം. അങ്ങനെയുള്ളവർ യോഗ്യന്മാരല്ലെന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു സമ്മതിച്ചേ കഴിയൂ. അവർ ആരെല്ലാം എന്നു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനുതന്നെ അറിയാം. ചോദ്യങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടും മറ്റും ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനെ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടും ഉണ്ട്. എല്ലാ വഗ്ഗങ്ങളേയും സമഭാവനയോടുകൂടി വിചാരിച്ച് ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനവിഷയത്തിലും മറ്റ് ഉദ്യോഗകൃത്യങ്ങളിലും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നവരായിരിക്കണം ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറധികൃതന്മാരായിരിക്കാൻ. ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനെ എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും സഹകരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നാണ് ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിചാരം ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അകൃത്യങ്ങളെ ഗൌനിക്കാതിരുന്നാൽ ജനസമുദായ

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

ത്തിനു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിൻെറമേൽ വലുതായ അതൃപ്തിയും സങ്കടവും ഉണ്ടാകും. ഓരോരുത്തക്കുമെന്നപോലെ ഓരോ ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനും നീതിയും ധർമ്മവുമാണു് വാസ്തവമായ ഉയച്ചയ്ക്കു കാരണമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. നീതിയേയും ധർമ്മത്തേയും വിഗണിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കയാണെങ്കിൽ മേലാൽ രാജ്യത്തിനതന്നെ അപകർഷം വരാതിരിക്കയില്ല. ഇങ്ങനെ നീതിയും ധർമ്മവും അനുസരിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കാത്ത ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ശാസിച്ചും ശിക്ഷിച്ചും ശരിപ്പെടുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണു് രാജ്യത്തിനത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇതു ഒരു വർഗ്ഗത്തിൻെറ കാര്യമല്ല. ഒരു വർഗ്ഗത്തോടു ചെയ്യുന്ന പക്ഷപാതത്തിൻെറയും അനീതിയുടേയും ഫലം രാജ്യത്തിനു പൊതുവിൽ കളങ്കം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഇതിൽ രാജ്യവാസികളം വർഗ്ഗഭേദമെന്യേ ശ്രദ്ധയുള്ളവരായിരിക്കണം. എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഉദ്യോഗനിയമനങ്ങളിൽ ഇപ്പോഴം കണ്ടുവരുന്ന അക്ഷേപങ്ങളം മേലും കാണാൻ ഇടവരാതെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ടപോലെ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണമെന്നു പ്രസ്താപിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോഴം വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI *(Ambalapuzha)*: Sir, I also rise to give expression of the surprise I feel at the figures collected and quoted by my friend, Mr. M. N. Pillai, in the matter of the appointment of teachers. More than in anything else there is the need for suitable appointments in the Department of Education conforming to the nature of the students. For, if a foreigner is imported and the students are committed to his care, the sort of interest that is likely to be taken with respect to the students under his care may be better imagined than described. But in the case of persons who are natives of the State, it is a proved fact more or less that the interest that the teacher takes is of a germane and kindly variety. The tendency of appointing teachers as far as possible from outside has been growing as may be seen from the figures supplied by Mr. M. N. Pillai. One aspect of the present-day tendency in the Education Department that one may notice is the spirit of aloofness that the teacher feels towards his students except in very rare instances, as I have been able to mark in the case of my friend Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar who seeks to live and move with the students and loves them. But such instances are few and far between even in the College. In the case of teachers in the Middle Schools and High Schools, there seems to prevail between the students and the teachers an atmosphere of estrangement. This tendency is only emphasised by the importation of teachers from abroad. Here then is a growing evil. In addition to this the alarming preponderance of teachers from one particular community tells its own tale. My friends on this side have been pressing it upon the attention of Government to make an example of somebody. I do not think that the Government will make an example

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of anybody, and even a sense of disapproval if entertained by Government will not be let known to the public.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): If the officer is suspended for misbehaviour?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I am very sorry to answer him. No officer has hitherto been suspended, nor, even censured for the offence of communal partiality in appointments. Some sort of explanation will be given in an *ex parte* fashion.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Do you wish to continue it?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Far from it. The whole thing would be dealt with in a wishy-washy way. An explanation must be elicited and it must be placed before the House so that the House may have an opportunity to consider the question upon the merits of the explanation. It is therefore that I am submitting—at least let us have the satisfaction of having the explanation before the extreme step of making an example.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതൻ മിസ്റ്റർ നാരായണപിള്ള പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെയുള്ള ആശ്ചര്യം എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതിനുള്ള കാരണം നിയമനങ്ങളിലുള്ള ഇത്തരം കഥകൾ എനിക്കു മുമ്പുതന്നെ ധാരാളമായി അറിയാമായിരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ അറിയാവുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനായിട്ട് പലേ ചോദ്യങ്ങളും ഈ കൌൺസിലിൽതന്നെ ചോദിക്കയും അതിലേക്കു പലേ സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെൻറുകളും കിട്ടുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ നിയമസഭയിൽ ചോദ്യരൂപേണ ചോദിക്കുന്നത് അതിനെ പറ്റി ഗവർണ്മെൻറു വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ നടത്തുമെന്നുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്താലാണ്. എന്നാൽ അതിന്മേൽ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു യാതൊരു നടപടിയും നടത്തീട്ടില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട് അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് പിന്നീടു ഞാൻതന്നെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം അയയ്ക്കാൻ ഇടയായി. അതായത് ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ അതിലെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ സജാതീയരെ മുഴുവനുമോ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ആളുകളേയോ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ബോദ്ധ്യം വരുന്നതായാൽ ആ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെ കഠിനമായി ശിക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നായിരുന്നു എന്റെ പ്രമേയം. ആ പ്രമേയത്തെ ഗവർണ്മെൻറു സ്വീകരിക്കാതെ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതിലേക്ക് എനിക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുള്ള എഴുത്തു ഇങ്ങനെയാണ്.

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[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

"I am directed to inform you that your resolution regarding the punishment of officers making appointments exclusively from their own community has been disallowed by the President under Rule 35 (*b*) of the Legislative Council Rules".

PRESIDENT: You are referring to the disallowance of a resolution by the President. His decisions in regard to the admission of resolutions should not be questioned in this House.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): പ്രസിഡന്റിന്റെ തീരുമാനത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ യാതൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. സംഗതിയുടെ പരമാർത്ഥത്തെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചു എന്നമാത്രമെയുള്ളൂ.

PRESIDENT: You may move in the matter elsewhere if you feel dissatisfied.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള സംഗതികൾ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നാൽ അതിന്മേൽ നടപടി നടത്തേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണു്. അങ്ങനെ നടപടി നടത്താതിരിക്കുന്ന അവസരങ്ങളിലാണു് ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ അയയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും അതിന്മേൽ നടപടി നടത്തണമെന്നു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനോടാവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതിനും ഇടയാകുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പ്രമേയങ്ങൾ അയയ്ക്കാൻ ഇടയാക്കാത്തവിധം പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസിന്റെ നിലയെ പരിപാലിച്ചുപോരേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ കടമയാണു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എൻ. പിള്ള പറയുന്നതിനു മുമ്പുതന്നെ എനിക്കറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ പഠിക്കുന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ കുട്ടികളെ നാട്ടുഭാഷ അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാർ പഠിപ്പിച്ചാൽ അവർ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ എത്രത്തോളം വർദ്ധിച്ചവരുമെന്നുള്ളതു് ആർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. നാട്ടുഭാഷ അറിയാൻപാടില്ലാത്തവരെ പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിൽ നിയമിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കുട്ടികൾ വിഷമിച്ചു പോകാതെ തരമില്ല. മൂന്നാം ഫാറംവരെ നാട്ടുഭാഷ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി പഠിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നാണു് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. നാട്ടുഭാഷ അറിയാൻ പാടില്ലാതെ ആ ക്ലാസ്സുകളിലെ വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാർ ഇംഗ്ലീഷിൽതന്നെ പഠിപ്പിച്ചുതുടങ്ങിയാൽ അവർ എന്തുചെയ്യുമെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. അവർ എങ്ങനെ പഠിക്കുമെന്നും അവർക്കു് എങ്ങനെ ക്ലാസ്സുകയറ്റങ്ങൾ കിട്ടുമെന്നും അറിയുന്നില്ല. ഈ സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി അശേഷം ആലോചിക്കാതെയാണു് പുറമെ നിന്നും ആജ്ഞകളെ വരുത്തുന്നതും അവക്കു ഒരു കൃപാ ശമ്പളം കൊടുക്കുന്നതും. ഈ

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കാരണങ്ങളാൽ ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എൻ. പിള്ളയുടെ മോഷണോട് പൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Sir, I never wanted to speak on this motion. But when I got the surprising figures about the appointments in the Education Department as revealed by the statistics collected by Mr. M. N. Pillai, I thought it my duty to join the chorus with the members on this side of the House. As has been pointed out by the previous speakers, there has been an undue preference of one community in the matter of appointments in this Department and my wonder is that such things are being allowed under the control of a European head of the Department. I was under the impression that things were going on much better under the control of the European Directors of Education from Dr. Mitchell downwards. But I am sorry to say that things have been allowed to drift by the later Directors of Public Instruction. So far as the present Director of Public Instruction is concerned, he said that he was going to study this subject and that he would pay his special attention in regard to this matter, as in other respects. I hope that he will do justice to all the communities irrespective of caste or creed. Sir, in this respect, I have only to add a word on behalf of the Catholic community. As the figures are made available with regard to this community, I think that the House is satisfied with the nature of the representation that the community is getting very poor in the English School Department as in other departments. I hope the attention of the present Director of Public Instruction and the Government will be specially directed to the need for the appointment of more members of that community.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): The attention of Government has been drawn to this particular subject.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot hear.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): This matter has been repeatedly brought to the attention of Government. The question of communal representation in public service has become a matter that is seriously engaging the attention of the Travancore public. We have a good number of communities. There was good understanding between communities themselves. They were moving and working very harmoniously. But difference and misunderstandings have begun to cloud this good relationship over the distribution of official loaves and fishes. They must not be ignored. But they must be considered, and proper remedies must be applied and proper agencies used for restoring lost harmony between the communities. I would again draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the different communities are clamouring for communal representation in the service and that something should be done immediately to put their desire into operation. We are at present dealing with the Education Department and the educational authorities

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

seem to have made "അക്ഷരം ബ്രഹ്മസ്തേന." their motto. That seems to be the motto which they hold in the matter of appointments. I do not know in which age "നീതിസാരം" was composed in which it is stated "അക്ഷരം ബ്രഹ്മസ്തേന." The meaning is that from Brahmins alone should knowledge be acquired. I do not know how many centuries have passed since that was written. But even to-day our educational authorities seem to follow that as their motto. As my friend Mr. Nidiry pointed out, I do not know why so much injustice should have been tolerated in a department which is presided over by a European who cannot be said to have caste inclinations. If European heads of departments are to allow such things to be committed by their subordinates, I do not know how matters will be going on in other departments where persons belonging to one or other of the communities are holding charge of the administration. I would also say that Rev. Fr. Vettikkapalli did positive disservice to poor Mr. Lenos although the name was mentioned by Fr. Vettikkapalli in answer to a question that was put to him. It would have been better for him not to have mentioned names. Since his name has been mentioned, I will also say a word about him. He is a poor Catholic of Shertallai. He is a double second class graduate. It was I who took him to Mr. Narayana Aiyar to get him a post. The Inspector was good enough to give him an acting vacancy of one month and seven days whereas he found a permanent vacancy for his own son-in-law. I am afraid that things like that, although we are ashamed to say in open Council, cannot but provoke indignation. As a matter of fact, we are very much ashamed to get up in this House to speak so much about official loaves and fishes. But when so much injustice is done, I do not know how it is possible for us to remain silent. I think that something should be done immediately so that communal representation which is demanded by the public may be brought into effect and things about which we are reluctant to speak may not be forced again from us.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, there is a good deal of accusation against officers who have any patronage worth the name and the difficulties have been enhanced by the circumstance that there are communities, in spite of all professions of cosmopolitanism, which care more for themselves—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the Nedumangad Munsiff's Court? (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: What is the relevancy of that question?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I must tell him that Nedumangad is not a community but a taluk. (*Laughter.*) Even to-day, as on previous occasions, we have heard the

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members on this side of the House referring to the circumstance that, when a European is at the head of any department, better justice may be expected. I am one of those who think that Europeans will be just officers. But frequent repetition of this fact engenders a doubt in the minds of all people whether, if a department is presided over by a Travancorean or other Indian, there would not be that confidence but a lurking fear that even justice might not be dispensed. The various communities ask for privileges and rights for themselves. So far as I am able to see, the man who agitates that he is a Brahmin or a Christian or a Nayar stands at the centre of a system of concentric circles. He first of all claims to be an Indian; then a South Indian; then a Travancorean; and then a Brahmin or a non-Brahmin. If a Brahmin the question is whether he is a Nambudiri or a Tamil Brahmin; and if a non-Brahmin, a Nayar or Ezhava and so forth; if a Christian, European or Indian, Protestant, Catholic or Jacobite, and so on. So that, whenever it suits any man to ask for a privilege, it is very easy to get at the centre of one of these circles. I do not blame anybody for that. It is more or less natural and people cannot shake away very easily the feeling regarding the interests of their communities. I have heard of an instance several years ago in which a gentleman of high educational qualifications went to the Dewan and told him, when all other arguments failed, that he was an Unni Brahmin. Poor man, he is dead now. That typifies the sort of attempt made.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Do not so many Brahmins get into the department as a matter of usual course?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I am coming to that. The word "സാമുദായം"—communal strife—is in all the newspapers. And there is much of the commodity in the land. We find various officers are being condemned for partiality. But, however much we may strain our memory, we cannot alight upon an instance in which anybody stood up and made a powerful speech saying that when a member of a particular community was tried as the head of a department he did his work so well that no community had any cause to blame. I can remember several Dewans for the last 25 or 30 years and not a single Dewan escaped condemnation whether he was a foreigner or a Travancorean. I also remember, when I was a boy, of having read a newspaper in which it was said that, because one Dewan did not retire in time, a tiger which paid a surprise visit to Trivandrum was deputed by the Almighty to remove him from the scene. I am referring to these things to show that there is so much complaint about these things. Whatever may be our principle, I submit that, when efficiency is the only test, communal representation should be in the background.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether he thinks that efficiency could be found only on the other side of the *ghats*?

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not say that. Whatever view one may hold with regard to efficiency, the matter has reached a crisis, so that some steps *are* absolutely necessary.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I should like to know whether Mr. Velu Pillai speaks for or against the motion. (*Laughter.*)

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I do not want to say anything with regard to that. (*Laughter.*) One difficulty that stares us in the face is that these officers who want to abuse the patronage vested in them are able to furnish us clipped information which is always at the tip of their fingers and pens. Government are not taking sufficient care to probe into the disease and find out the actual causes, possibly because they may not have adequate time. But the matter being so difficult, they ought to change their angle of vision. Although it may be troublesome, that has to be done. Clear rules should be laid down in regard to the entertainment of people in service, paying due respect to the claims of particular communities—I do not mean the numerical strength alone. It is for the House to consider what rules should be laid down with regard to entertainment in the service. It is for the House to consider what are the principles to be adopted and, when once the principle is adopted, to see that those principles are acted upon. There is nothing so bad in law as light punishment. Light punishment only creates immunity from fear. If an officer offends against a rule which results in injustice and if the allegations made may be proved with the help of sufficient evidence, that officer must be severely and rigorously punished.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറ്യുക്കാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ സ്വന്തജാതിക്കാരെ തന്നെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി കൌൺസിലിൽ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു കിട്ടിയ സേറ്റ്മെൻറുകൾ മിസ്റ്റർ വേലുപ്പിള്ള കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ ?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I have seen it, and that is the reason why I am supporting the motion, (*laughter*) because from the facts furnished to us we find that officers belonging to various communities have been accused. Now I may remind the House of a famous saying of Oliver Cromwell that, if some are killed in battle at the proper time, the necessity may be avoided of killing a great many more. In the same manner if you find any officer guilty of nepotism or corruption or that most dangerous form of official corruption, *viz.*, communal partiality, we should deal with him in such a way that the example will be remembered for years to come,

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and that nobody will have the nerve to follow in the footsteps of the offender. With these words, I support the motion, because it involves the general principle of appointments.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, complaints about the appointments in the Education Department were made during the general discussion of the budget and there have also been complaints this morning about them. As I said yesterday, I have prepared a statement dealing with English education, and as the matter requires to be fully explained, I seek the permission of the Chair to take a little more time than the allotted ten minutes within which I cannot deal with the subject.

PRESIDENT: You may have more than ten minutes. As Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai said, the matter seems to have reached a crisis and more light has to be thrown upon it.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The main complaints seem to be that there is a preponderance of Brahmins in the Education Department. We are left to infer that this is unjustifiable and arises in a measure from the fact that the two Inspectors of Schools are Brahmins and that the Director of Public Instruction, although not a Brahmin, is either too busy or too supine to be able to control them.

As to the fact that there is a preponderance of Brahmins in the Department, there is no question; and the only matter to be dealt with is whether this preponderance is justifiable or not.

I would first of all point out that it is not alleged, nor, as far as I know, even hinted at, that Brahmin teachers or Inspectors are as a class incompetent or that the mere fact of their being Brahmins disqualifies them in any way for service in the Education Department.

It is perhaps worthwhile to consider for a minute the principle according to which appointments to such important posts as teachers' and Inspectors' posts should be made. In a homogeneous community, the answer to that question is simple, namely that for such work with its truly tremendous responsibility only the very best men available should be appointed.

If on any grounds, communal, religious or social, that principle is departed from, the results cannot but fail to be bad, especially in this country where, despite our relatively high standing as regards education in India, much leeway has still to be made up if we are to align ourselves with other nations in these matters.

Then again, what is the complaint of the non-Brahmin communities as regards appointments? What is it that they are asking for—fair-play or privileges?

Fairplay they are entitled to and should get; and I, for one, as long as I hold the post I now hold, shall endeavour to see that they do get it.

I have already indicated what results must follow if pervileges are given to other communities on a class basis or on any other basis than fitness only.

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[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

Since I became Ag. Director of Public Instruction, the question of the Brahmin element in the Departmemt has cropped up more than once and I must say that at first sight the figures obtained in connection with questions in this Council did appear rather startling. I was in the happy position of having had no responsibility in the matter and I could view the question without partiality one way or the other. I was very busy; but the matter interested me and I began a little investigation with the idea of finding what, if appointments were made on grounds of fitness alone, the proportion of Brahmins to non-Brahmins was likely to be.

The figures I will now give relate to the last three years:—

1.	Percentage of Brahmins in the State according to the last census ...	1·14
2.	Percentage of Brahmins obtaining Government Scholarships of Rs. 5 per mensem tenable in the Fourth Form of High Schools ...	10·9
3.	Percentage of Brahmins amongst those who secured School Leaving Certificates eligible for College admission ...	16·5
4.	Percentage of Brahmins obtaining Government Scholarships of Rs. 10 per mensem tenable in Intermediate classes in colleges ...	22·0
5.	Percentage of Brahmins passing the Intermediate examination (both parts) from H. H. The Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum (Group 1 alone 63·3 per cent) ...	45·1
6.	Percentage of Brahmins obtaining Government Scholarships of Rs. 15 per mensem tenable in the B. A. Pass and Honors Classes ...	54·5
7.	Percentage of Brahmins passing the B. A. Degree Examination (both parts) from H. H. The Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum ...	31·1
	Group I alone ...	58·5
	Group II (*a*) alone ...	42·9
	Group II (*b*) alone ...	48·8
8.	Percentage of Brahmins passing the B. A. (Honors) Degree Examination from H. H. The Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum ...	42·4

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chenganmur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether he has got the percentage for other communities?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No. They must obviously be much less.

Turning to the *Civil List*, it is found that amongst Headmasters of High Schools and the Provincial Staff of teachers (all Graduates) 52 per cent. are Brahmins and amongst acting teachers the percentage is 54 per cent.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Without having the figures in respect of other communities, how is it possible to institute a comparison?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am dealing with the *percentages* of Brahmins with regard to eligibility for appointments and with regard to appointments.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is it your attempt to show that the Brahmins are intellectually superior?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not attempt to show anything. I simply give the figures.

Turning to the *Civil List*, it is found that, amongst Headmasters of High Schools and the Provincial Staff of teachers (all Graduates) 52 per cent. are Brahmins and amongst acting teachers 54 per cent. At first sight, these percentages seem a little higher perhaps than the figures for successes amongst Brahmins would warrant, but it is necessary to remember that, just as the percentage of Brahmins rises with the standard of the examination, so we may expect that, amongst the best graduates, the percentage of Brahmins will be higher than it is amongst all graduates taken together.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know the relevancy of these figures to the question under discussion?

PRESIDENT: If they are not relevant, it is for me to question.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai in his speech during the general discussion in the Budget said, with regard to the Education Department:

"Whatever may have been the case at one time, it cannot now be contended with any show of reason that it is due to want of applicants from other communities".

I can, however, assure him that, if there is any complaint regarding the appointments of non-Brahmins in recent years, the dearth of suitable applicants from amongst non-Brahmins was one considerable factor in determining the proportion of non-Brahmins appointed. I will deal with this point later.

I would also point out that it is only lately that non-Brahmins have secured the minimum qualifications for appointments in the Department in fair numbers and that the Brahmins now in the Department were many of them appointed years ago when qualified men from other communities were not available.

It will not, I suppose, be contended that the Brahmins already in the service should be disbanded in order to make room for non-Brahmins who have now become eligible for appointment; and as the number of permanent appointments made in the Department in one year is very small, it will inevitably take some time before the Brahmin preponderance can be reduced.

Whilst I am dealing with this question, I should like to give ther facts for the information of the Council in order that the existing situation may be better understood.

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[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

In dealing with the English School branch, I would first of all point out that Mr. Narayana Aiyar has been Inspector of Schools since 1st Kumbham 1098 only. For twelve years—

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether he was not acting on one or two occasions as Inspector before 1098?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am just coming to that.

For twelve years before that, the office was held by Mr. Pryde, except for sixteen months when Mr. Narayana Aiyar acted for him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many appointments he made during that time?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am just coming to that.

As regards the appointment of teachers, he can appoint only Drawing and Drill-masters, Munshies, clerks and peons, whose pay does not exceed Rs. 40. Since he took charge, only 3·4 per cent of the appointments have been made directly by him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know the number of appointments he made?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have got that number also. I am coming to it.

Undergraduate teachers and Munshies are appointed by the Director of Public Instruction and the appointments of Graduate teachers, Inspectors, and Headmasters are made by Government on the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know on what basis he makes the recommendations?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Who? I?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I mean the Director.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): To Government?

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Yes. Has the Inspector anything to do with the appointments?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The Inspector recommends all appointments in the English schools.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In how many cases has the Director departed from the recommendation of the Inspector?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say now.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : Approximately?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) There is no use in giving approximate figures. If I give figures, at all they must be exact figures.

With regard to these appointments, the Inspector makes recommendations of course; but as regards the actual appointments, any blame with regard to them has to be shared by the Director and by Government.

In 1088, by order of Government graduates alone were declared eligible for appointments in English schools down to the lowest class.

Graduates were not, however, available in Travancore in sufficient numbers; and, for a period of one or two years, places had to be filled temporarily by undergraduates. In 1088, Dr. Bishop reported as follows :

"It must be confessed that graduates did not come forward to the extent that was expected and desired; a large number, even after applying for appointment, withdrew in many cases even after their appointments were sanctioned."

I understand that there are now in the Department 30 Brahmin graduates from outside Travancore who joined service here in 1088 and 1089.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know how many of them were confirmed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : These relate to appointments in 1088 and 1089. They have all been confirmed long ago.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know how many acting men are there in the Department?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : There are about 50 persons among graduates—I cannot guarantee the figures—and 30 or 40 amongst undergraduates.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : Of the acting men, may I know how many foreign Brahmins there are?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : I do not know. I do not think there are very many.

These 30 graduates were appointed, because of the dearth of other applicants.

Even during the period 1919-1922, the local supply of graduates was not sufficient to meet the demands of the Department and every Travancore graduate who then applied for a post was appointed irrespective of his community, capacity or the optional subject studied by him at College.

As a temporary measure, also persons who had only passed one branch of the B. A degree examination were appointed to teach higher forms.

To attract graduates, advertisements had to be published in the local papers and in Madras and pay higher than the usual minimum

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offered to some non-Travancoreans, in consideration of their higher qualifications. If, as a result of these efforts, some of those appointed were Brahmins, the Department cannot well be blamed for that.

Again too, Brahmins have always taken to the teaching profession more readily and willingly than the members of other communities amongst whom the educational service was not particularly popular.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know whether he is aware that, during the time of Dr. Harvey and Mr. Ross, a large proportion of the College staff—professorial and other teaching staff—was composed of Nayars, Christians and other non-Brahmins?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I was not aware of that. I will take Mr. Hoogewerf's word upon it.

PRESIDENT: He has told you, Mr. Hoogewerf, that, ever since 1922, graduates from all communities irrespective of caste or creed have been entertained.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is only now when chances of entering other departments are much less than they were that they apply in large number to us. Even during the last two years, 1098 and 1099, 23 graduates who were offered appointment in the Education Department, declined the offer, failed to reply to our letters, left after a short period or resigned their permanent appointments in the Department.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many Nayars there are in the Science College?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am now discussing the English schools, and when we come to discuss the Science College, I shall be very pleased to give Mr. M. N. Pillai the information that he wants.

Of the 23 graduates referred to above, 3 were Brahmins and 20 non-Brahmins.

For many years then, the Department needed graduates and had great difficulty in obtaining them. We had to take what we could get. As a result, we have at present in the department a marked preponderance of History graduates. Now that graduates in Mathematics and Science are available, they receive first consideration; and for some years to come, the majority of our appointments must be from amongst such men.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How long is it since the Department felt that Travancoreans were becoming available?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Last year and this year, *i.e.*, 1923 and 1924.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that, in the year 1097, there were 147 Nayar applicants, 119 Christian applicants, 10 Mahomedan applicants 15 Ambalavasi applicants, and so on?

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MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): May be.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then why were no non-Brahmins selected from these applicants?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Any question Mr. M. N. Pillai wishes to ask, I shall be very glad to answer after finishing my speech.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wanted the information from the Government regarding these applications and I got it.

PRESIDENT: What is it that you want, Mr. M. N. Pillai?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I wanted to point out that there were many applicants three years ago.

PRESIDENT: In 1097?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Stephenson is referring to the number of graduate applicants.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI (*Thodupuzha cum Kunnatnad*): Is he sure that all the applications received are filed? Does he know that some of the applications are not filed in time?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Every application received is as a rule filed. It is not a question which I can answer unless I see the file.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know whether there is any record in the office of the Director to show the number of applications received by the Inspector direct?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have all the information which is in the hands of Government.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): Are these applications generally forwarded by the Inspector to the Director with regard to the appointments that have been made by him?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): With regard to the appointments I have made or recommended to the Government, I consulted Mr. Narayana Aiyar before I made my recommendations. I had the applications before me.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Is there any rule that all the applications should be sent to the Director?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There is no rule that all the applications should be sent to the Director; but when the Inspector makes a recommendation, as a rule the applications are also sent to the Director.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was Dr. Thomas's application so filed?

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[Mr. J. Stephenson.]

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, it was filed. I may just say a word about that. Dr. Thomas applied for a place in the History Department about a year before a vacancy arose. In the interval his application was mislaid and, when the vacancy arose he was away and it was lost sight of.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Whose fault is it that the application of a distinguished graduate was mislaid?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It did not happen in my time. It is difficult for me to apportion the blame now.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Department make an enquiry?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, I can do that.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What is the basis of the statement that the Brahmins take up appointments more willingly in the Department, and, that, with others, the Department is not popular?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): The basis of the statement is the figures which I have given.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is he not aware that in the Vernacular schools there are more non-Brahmins than Brahmins?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is true. It is with the English schools that I am particularly dealing at present. The proportion of Brahmin applicants is getting less and less. About applicants for employment in Vernacular schools, I am not concerned now.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): Is it not because they found it hopeless to get into the English schools that they gave up the idea?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know that. I should like to give some more figures in regard to Mathematics and Science graduates. The needs of the Mathematics and Science classes are now met partly by the appointment of graduates in these subjects in training and other vacancies.

For such acting posts in June this year, 5 amongst the applicants were Brahmins and 45 non-Brahmins; in 1098 the figures were 62 Brahmins and 40 non-Brahmins.

Also, of the total number who passed their B. A. Degree Examination in Mathematics or Science from the Maha Raja's College, 58·6 per cent. in 1922, 45·5 per cent. in 1923, and 57·1 per cent. in 1924 were Brahmins.

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MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*): പല സമുദായങ്ങളിൽ പെട്ട ആളുകളിൽ നിന്നും അപേക്ഷകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ, സർക്കാർ സർവീസിൽ തക്കതായ പ്രോത്സാഹനം ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ലാത്ത ജനവിഭാഗത്തിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ അപേക്ഷകളെ പ്രത്യേകം ഗൌനിക്കാറുണ്ടോ?

PRESIDENT: The question is, if there are applications from members of different communities, whether you prefer applicants from communities which are least represented in the service.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is a little difficult to answer that. If there is nothing to distinguish between two men of equal qualifications, one of whom is a Brahmin and the other a non-Brahmin, the latter is preferred.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how he distinguishes the efficiency of the two?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There are various ways in which you can distinguish. You can distinguish between an Honors man and a Pass man, a first class man and a second class man and a third class man.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Are there no men who have passed in the third class entertained in the educational service when there were first class and second class men available?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know to what appointment Mr. M. N. Pillai refers. It was not in my period.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are there not instances in which an Honors graduate has been repelled and an ordinary graduate appointed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, there is one such instance. I know the appointment to which Mr. P.K. Narayana Pillai refers. I do not want to give a detailed explanation in regard to that just now. It is the subject of a separate motion which is to come up hereafter. If Mr. Narayana Pillai raises it then, I shall deal with it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): All that I wanted to ascertain was whether there are not instances of that kind?

PRESIDENT: He promises to explain it when the motion is dealt with.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Yes.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know who is the officer that chooses the candidates for appointments and who is the officer responsible for making the recommendation?

PRESIDENT: The initial recommendation is made by the Inspector who forwards the same to the Director. The Director makes

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his own recommendation and forwards it to Government. If necessary, Government call for further information from the Director.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): As graduates of all kinds are now available, the Department is now in a position to choose men for appointments and it is a sound principle to choose the best, Honours men in preference to Pass men or first class men in preference to third class men. Amongst applicants with the Honours degree or first and second classes in the B. A. Pass degree examination, the percentage of Brahmins in 1099 was 58 per cent. and in 1098, 67 per cent.

Similarly, of the total number of students who graduated in the first and second classes with Mathematics or Science as their optional subject from the Maha Raja's College 64·3 per cent. in 1922, 66·7 per cent. in 1923 and 75 per cent. in 1924 were Brahmins.

If the point at issue is recent appointments, then I may state that during the last two years 11 graduates (6 Brahmins and 5 non-Brahmins), and 26 under-graduates (16 Brahmins and 10 non-Brahmins) have been confirmed and all of them had had long acting service ranging from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ years in the case of graduates and from $1\frac{1}{3}$ years to 6 years in the case of undergraduates. The teachers with the longest acting service were recommended.

As regards acting service, the Education Department is in a peculiar position.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether there are graduates still acting for four and five years in English Schools?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid there are graduates who have a fairly long acting service.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether they were not recommended for confirmation?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot say that definitely.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know whether they are Brahmins or non-Brahmins.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Judging from the figures I have given, I think they must be mainly Brahmins.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Is it not a fact that men with shorter service were confirmed?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is not a fact.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is it not a fact that foreigners who have put in only 1 year and 2 months' service were confirmed? Here is the statement and I shall read it. Mr. S. K. Sankara Aiyar—

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Brahmin—non-Travancorean—History—B. A. Pass course—service 2 years and 3 months.

And then, Mr. V. Raghava Aiyangar—non-Travancorean—History—Second class—2 years and 2 months.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): These appointments relate to the time when a Travancorean was not obtainable and we had to invite Brahmins from outside.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But some of these men were made permanent although they have put in only one year and 2 months' service as for example Mr. P. G Sundram, non-Travancorean, confirmed after a service of 1 year and 2 months.

PRESIDENT: What is the subject, please?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Mathematics.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): In what branch of the Department is he employed as a teacher?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): In the English school branch, Mr. C. V. Subbarama Aiyar, Mathematics; Mr. V. D. Sundararajan, Mathematics III class, 1 year and 2 months' service,—these appointments were made after 1097.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am not able to grasp what Mr. M. N. Pillai's question is.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I wish to know from Mr. Stephenson whether he is dealing with appointments which are within his gift or within the gift of the Inspector.

PRESIDENT: He is dealing with appointments within the gift of Government.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): In that case, I rise to a point of order, because the motion now brought forward is for reducing the allotment of the Controlling Agencies in English Schools. My interpretation of it is—I submit it to your ruling—that, if the appointments are not within the gift of the Controlling Officer, this is not the time for discussing that question. It must come later on under the general motion tabled by Mr. Madhava Variar, to reduce the total allotment under Demand XII.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it is out of order. It is a general discussion of policy and it need not necessarily be confined to appointments by the Controlling Agency.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): As regards acting service, the Education Department is in a peculiar position, in that every year there are acting vacancies for long periods on account of the deputation of teachers for training or to other branches of the Department. In such vacancies there are now 43 graduates and 36 undergraduates. In order to secure good men for these vacancies, it is necessary that it should be clearly recognised that acting service of this character will be regarded as a strong claim for appointment when posts become permanently vacant.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is the Director of Public Instruction aware that there is a practice among these officers that, when acting vacancies arise, they put in their friends quietly without anybody else knowing, and then confirm them on the ground of their acting in the appointments.

PRESIDENT: Acting appointments receive the careful scrutiny of the Director and also require the sanction of higher authorities in certain cases.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What I want to bring to his notice is that they are put in to act without anybody else knowing it, and then confirmed on that score.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether the acting appointments are advertised?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They are not advertised in newspapers.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): And so, the officer concerned can appoint any one secretly.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Mr. Narayana Aiyar, as has already been pointed out, cannot make any appointments. Since Mr. Narayana Aiyar assumed charge in Kumbham 1098, he has appointed or recommended for appointment 52 graduates—24 Brahmins and 28 non-Brahmins. Twenty-three of these, 12 Brahmins, and 11 non-Brahmins had 'acted' during the time of his predecessor, and of the 29 remaining, who were first introduced into the Department on his initiative, 12 are Brahmins and 17 non-Brahmins.

Amongst the applicants to him for first appointment, all non-Brahmin Literature Honours men, and first and second class Pass B. A's in Mathematics or Science, were offered posts, but some declined the offer. Some Brahmin Honours men and second class B. A's were not offered appointment. One third class non-Brahmin was appointed and no third class Brahmin. Of History graduates, 2 non-Brahmins were appointed because of their having obtained second classes in English and one Brahmin third class graduate was appointed because he belonged to a backward class among Brahmins.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know what he means by backward class among the Brahmins?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sivalli Brahmins. That is his community anyhow.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): What is meant by saying 'backward' there?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know myself. But I took Mr. Narayana Aiyar's words.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether Visvakarma Brahmins come under this category? (*Laughter.*)

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MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am only dealing with this particular caste.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am only suggesting another.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): When I get an application from that community, I will decide that case and not now (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sivalli Brahmins—is it in the Census Report?

PRESIDENT: I do not know.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know what the Director of Public Instruction means by 'backward'.

PRESIDENT: He means, probably, backward in point of English education.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Is it backward in wealth or backward in education?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Backward in point of English education.

PRESIDENT: It is time.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I think I can finish in five minutes.

Coming to undergraduates, all available undergraduates who acted during the time of Mr. Pryde, except four, have been re-appointed. These four are all Brahmins. No new appointments of undergraduates were made in 1098.

In 1099, 18 new appointments were made.

2 Brahmins.
2 Christians.
5 Nayars.
1 Raja.
8 from special classes, including backward and depressed classes.

Of three Munshies appointed—

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): How many of them were Ezhavas?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have not got them particularised here.

Of the three Munshies appointed since Mr. Narayana Aiyar took charge, one is a Brahmin (first class Mahopadhyaya) one a Christian and the other an Ezhava.

Within the same period, 4 clerks have also been appointed—2 Brahmins, 1 Nayar and 1 Christian. One of the Brahmins had served overseas and was recommended by the Soldiers' Committee.

Sir, I have endeavoured to explain how it came about that the percentage of Brahmins in the Educational Department is so high as it is.

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[President.]

I have also tried to shew that, as the appointments to permanent posts are very few, the reduction in this percentage can in any case only be slow and gradual,

I have given figures for recent appointments in the English Schools foy Boys' branch which show at any rate that preference to Brahmins as a class has not been given.

As regards the other branches of the Department, I have not had the time to make so careful a scrutiny; and for that reason I do not say anything as regards these now.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What I want to know is this. Is the preponderance of Brahmins due to the policy of Government and not to the communal partiality of the officers responsible for the appointment?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Who is responsible for the past appointments, I cannot say, because I was not here when they were made. What I am trying to show by taking all available evidence is, why a good portion of the posts in the Education Department are held by Brahmins.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has Mr. Stephenson anything to say with reference to the specific instance cited by Rev. Fr. Vettikappalli?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have nothing to say. What I can promise is that, since the matter has been placed before me, I shall make an enquiry into it.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know what Mr. Stephenson has got to say about Mr. Narayana Aiyar appointing his own son-in-law?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): He was appointed, not because he was Mr. Narayana Aiyar's son-in-law, but because he was a first class graduate in Mathematics. It was on that ground that he was appointed.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Is the Director aware that he was just fresh from the college?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Most of our men who are appointed are fresh from the college.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the member be pleased to say why a Mathematics graduate was made to teach History?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That requires an enquiry.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are Mathematics graduates able to teach History? (*Laughter.*)

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Some Mathematics graduates *are* able to teach History.

PRESIDENT: I think the converse is more difficult. (*Laughter.*)

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MR. T. K. VELU PALLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Mathematics is more easily learnt than History. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: That is news to me.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 2-15 P. M. and re-assembled at 3-5 P. M.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I also rise to support the motion. I was rather startled at the figures given by Mr. M. N. Pillai and I must confess that I am still more startled by some of the arguments advanced by the Director of Public Instruction in support of the policy pursued in the matter of appointment in the Education Department of the State during the past few years. The Director of Public Instruction has taken some pains to give some figures to show the superiority of the Brahmins in intellect over the non-Brahmin communities of the State.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): May I know whether Mr. Padmanabha Pillai is aware whether Mr. Stephenson collected those figures himself or somebody else collected those figures on his behalf?

PRESIDENT: How does it affect the question? The figures are there. Who collected the figures is not relevant to the question at issue.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): I just ask whether Mr. Padmanabha Pillai is aware whether Mr. Stephenson collected these figures or whether somebody else collected them for him.

PRESIDENT: I do not think that it is relevant to the question.

MR. N. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I do not know whether Mr. Stephenson quoted those figures with a view to infer that the Brahmins are intellectually superior to the non-Brahmins. I do not think that is the object with which he quoted those figures. I do not see the relevancy of these figures if they were not advanced to support such a position. Anyhow, whatever be the object, whether the Brahmins are superior or not, what I thought was that the attempt of the Director of Public Instruction was to show that the Brahmins are superior in certain respects and that provision ought to be made in the State service in proportion to that superiority. I do not believe that the non-Brahmins of the State will be prepared to accede to such a position. I therefore strongly support the motion of Mr. M. N. Pillai.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I did not want to speak on this motion, because I thought several of my friends on this side of the House had already made out a very strong case in support of that motion. But after the elaborate defence put forward by the Director of Public Instruction—and I suppose it is on behalf of the Government—I fear I shall have to speak a few words by way of explanation of what my friends on this side of the House have been saying. The views put forward by Mr. Stephenson were, I think, put forward on behalf of the Government.

PRESIDENT: There are no views put forward. He has only put forward some facts and figures.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Facts are stated with a view to draw some inference or other therefrom.

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[Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: The aim of the Director of Public Instruction is to explain why certain conditions exist.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): The main complaint on this side of the House was, if I mistake not, about the preponderance of the Brahmin element in the Educational Department, especially in the English Schools. Mr. Stephenson quoted certain figures representing the percentage of the successful candidates in examinations among candidates who appeared from His Highness the Maha Raja's College. He gave a certain percentage of Brahmins who came out successful in the B. A. Degree, Intermediate and School Final Examinations. I do not know exactly for what purpose that was intended. The only relevancy that perhaps is perceptible to us is that, because of such a large percentage among Brahmins, naturally they have applied for posts in the Department.

PRESIDENT: In larger numbers perhaps, and there were no applicants from other communities. That was the object of Mr. Stephenson in quoting those figures, I presume.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I think that is the only object to be served by a reference to these figures. About the figures I have only to say thus much, *viz.*, that they stand in need of revision and re-examination. It does not appear to us, Sir, and we find it extremely difficult to believe, that there could have been such a dearth of applicants among members of non-Brahmin communities as to make it possible for such an overwhelming preponderance of one element only. Mr. Stephenson's own knowledge on the point has been admitted to be very imperfect, because he said he could not know how all these men happened to be put in, because he assumed charge of the Department only very recently. It therefore behoves him to say whether the facts stated by him alone are sufficient to warrant any inference or to justify the disproportionate representation of one element only in the Department. As to the percentage of candidates available for these posts, to my mind, the figures stated by Mr. Stephenson should not be taken by themselves, because the figures quoted by him relate only to the successful candidates who appeared from His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum. It is a well-known fact that several Travancoreans have not been able to get admission in His Highness the Maha Raja's College and have thus been forced to seek admission elsewhere and surely a considerable number among them have come out successful in the examinations. No attempt has been made to show how many of such Travancorean candidates from outside colleges had applied to these posts.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Stephenson did not say that these figures related only to applications from graduates of this College.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): I would only draw the attention of Mr. Stephenson to the fact that, before an inference is drawn from a particular set of facts, the facts must be full.

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The figures relating to His Highness the Maha Raja's College by themselves should not be taken into consideration. If we want to draw a reasonable inference from these figures, it ought to be done after ascertaining the number of Travancoreans who have passed the examinations. So far as the figures for the last three years in the list are concerned, we find that there has been absolutely no dearth of applications from the non-Brahmin communities. Still we find that a considerable number from the already over-represented community has been taken into the Department. It was stated as an argument. I do not know if it was put forward as an argument, but still it would appear that it was an argument—that they were the best men available. It was stated that the proportion stood thus because there were marks of distinction about members of that community. Perhaps there may have been brilliant men among them and there is no suggestion that brilliant men must be discouraged. We do not certainly contend that Brahmins should not be taken in the service at all. The only question is that the choice should be even and impartial. Government should distribute the appointments among suitable candidates in other communities as well. The Director has also told us that the blame should be laid not on the Inspector but shared equally by the head of the Department as well as the Government and that the Inspector should not be taken into account at all. We are not concerned with that. We only request through this motion that Government should investigate the matter to see that these figures supplied by the head of the Department,—I do not know whether the Government have examined these figures and I think that it is on behalf of Government that the Director of Public Instruction has told us all these things this evening—are correct and complete. If the Government have not gone through the figures and if they had no opportunity to investigate the matter, it is high time that an investigation is called for to see whether these figures are accurate and to get full knowledge of the whole question. It is then that they must pass an impartial judgment thereby securing honesty in the public service.

PRESIDENT: For the information of the House, I may say that an investigation has already been started at the instance of Government. As Mr. Stephenson has already stated, these figures have not yet been scrutinised by the Government. There has not been enough time to examine the matter exhaustively. An exhaustive examination of matters like this does take time.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Sir, I am really surprised to hear the explanation of the Director of Public Instruction on my motion. It was quite unsatisfactory and unconvincing. What I submit is that the percentage of Brahmins in service is disproportionately large and that the appointments made hereafter should be confined to non-Brahmins in order to equalise the proportion of appointments. Sir, he quoted the percentage of scholarship-holders in colleges and schools. We all know that most of these schools and colleges are manned by Brahmin teachers. The Headmasters are mostly Brahmins. They could very easily make Brahmins pass creditably in order to secure scholarships. This is seen from the fact that the Inspector himself has

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[President.]

shown so much of partiality. He was bold enough to appoint his own son-in-law against the rules of Government.

PRESIDENT: It is not against the rules of Government.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Even then, it is against morality. (*Laughter.*) Certainly he should not have appointed his own son-in-law to the prejudice of other deserving applicants and placed him in a permanent vacancy. I am not at all convinced of the argument in support of the Inspector of Schools.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Is the member aware that there is a departmental rule that relations should not be appointed?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That was my impression. Now I understand from the President that there is no such rule. I do dot know whether the Inspector got permission from the Government to appoint his son-in-law.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know whether Mr. M. N. Pillai is certain that Mr. Narayana Aiyar has appointed his son-in-law?

PRESIDENT: The Director has spoken about that. The Inspector never appoints. He only recommends and the Director appoints.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It is not the Director that makes the selection, but it is done by the Inspector of Schools and there seems to be no principle in the matter of selection of candidates. We want equal opportunities to be given to qualified men belonging to other communities also and there ought to be no cause for complaints from non-Brahmins. The unjust encouragement shown to Brahmins by certain officers is the cause of unrest in the country. The Government should investigate the conduct of such officers and if any of them is found guilty, they should be severely dealt with, and, as some members suggested, such officers should be sent away from service.

Sir, I want fair-play and there should be no cause for heartburning to qualified non-Brahmins. With these words, I press the motion.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I have very little to add to what I have already said. There are one or two points since brought forward. Mr. G. Paramesvaran Pillai raised the question as to why I took the figures from the Maha Raja's College alone. It is very difficult now to get figures from other colleges.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know with what object he quoted the figures?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I quoted the figures in order that the House might be acquainted with them.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): How were the figures relevant to his position?

PRESIDENT: You yourself put that question. I do not think that it should be put again.

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MR. T. LAKSHMANAN PILLAI (*Nominated*): I would like to ask one question. May I know whether mere success in the examination would point to an all-round superiority of one community over another?

PRESIDENT: We are not discussing the superiority of one community over another, intellectually or otherwise. It is a question of the appointment of people who happen to be the members of certain communities.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, in my previous speech, I dealt with the general question. The only point left over is the matter of individual appointments. I quoted in my speech figures for the last two years. From those figures it would be seen that the proportion of Brahmin appointments is less than the existing proportion in the staff. As regards individual appointments, I can only say that if applications come in large numbers, they will be dealt with properly. For these applications, I have caused a register to be opened. I have arranged for such a register as will give full particulars, so that in any appointment that is made it will be possible for me to ascertain in five minutes whether all the applications have been considered. I hope that more than I said in my previous speech is not necessary to convince Mr. M. N. Pillai. I think he will not press the motion.

PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion Mr. M. N. Pillai?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I press the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 23 voting *for* and 18 *against*.

Motion 213.

The following motion was not made:

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:—

213. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 97,444 for Controlling Agencies by Rs. 100.

Motion 214.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I make the following motion:

"*214. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,924 for Pandits by Rs. 100.*

I wish just to make a few observations with respect to this motion During the general discussion of the budget, I promised to prove to the House that the so-called test of efficiency, which is being dinned into our ears at each discussion of the budget when the question of any particular appointment is raised in the House, is, after all, an illusory thing from which officers of Government depart as they want. Here is a specific instance and it is to illustrate what I said that I have sent this motion up. With respect to this particular Pandit's post, I understand that there were two applicants, one a mere graduate and another a B. A. (Hons). The

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

mere B. A. was selected by the authorities and the other man was asked to stand aside. To protest against that appointment, I have sent in this motion. Before sending the motion, I had a talk with my friend Mr. Stephenson upon this subject. Then, he, evidently adopting the explanation supplied to him by the Principal of the Science College, told me that the methods of selection employed in this particular instance were as follows, that is to say, the Honours B.A. man in this particular instance happened to be a third class man and the mere B. A. a second class man. A second class B. A. is more than equivalent to a third class Honours B. A. Now, prolonging this sort of logic a little further, it would appear that a first class S. S. L.C. would be equivalent to a third class B. A. *Ex hypothesi*, a first class S. S. L. C. would be equivalent to a third class Honours B.A. If this sort of argument is lengthened on, the College authorities will be able to work various mathematical miracles (*laughter*) in the matter of appointments. Probably Mathematics will lend color to this. Another test that was employed as a crucial test by the Science College was this. Not having been satisfied with the hall-mark conferred by the University, these people appeared to have been at the pains to compare the marks of the two applicants. That is to say, with respect to one particular class examination they took out the marks secured by the applicants and it then appeared that the Honours man got only a lesser number of marks than his rival. In instituting this comparison, may I bring to the notice of the House the extremely ridiculous fashion in which it was conducted? Both of them did not belong to the same College and they never were together in the same class. One came from Madras and the other studied at Trivandrum and they were never together.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Does he know that the Honours man was a student of the third class in this College?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): For how many terms, please?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): For one whole year.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): He graduated from a Madras College as I mentioned. To collect the marks obtained by a particular student in one particular year, and to institute a comparison between him and another student in another year, is a very strange proceeding. If this test is to be applied, probably the Principal of the Science College will have himself to abdicate his post in favour of some other person. Mr. Stephenson himself will have to perform the same feat. (*Laughter*) It is an unfair and unheard of comparison. All these are glorious tests to get rid of the University distinction that has been conferred upon the applicant; and to ignore the superior degree the authorities of the Science College have been at pains to do it and

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the Director of Public Instruction has been glad to accept that. Now that is a direct illustration of what I have been saying at the budget discussion. The officers of the Travancore Darbar have got peculiar methods of circumventing persons and defeating the legitimate claims of other persons. In view of that fact, I am pressing this motion with all the warmth that I am capable of.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I am very glad that this, at any rate, is not a communal question as both the candidates are Nayars. With regard to the basis on which the selection of the Sanskrit Pandit was made, I would first of all point out that the business of the Sanskrit Pandit will be to teach Sanskrit translation. For that a knowledge of English is very necessary; in addition, a knowledge of Sanskrit also is necessary. An Honours graduate in Sanskrit has done very little English. I will mention no names. The Honours graduate is 32 years old. He passed his examination in 1923. He took seven years to pass the Intermediate examination. The ordinary period is two years. He secured 30 per cent. in English and 51 per cent. in Sanskrit in the class examination, and he was not promoted. He was permitted by the University, on the recommendation of the Lecturer in Sanskrit, to join the second year Honours course in Sanskrit in the Presidency College and he passed the B. A. Honours in Sanskrit in 1923 taking a third class and being the last on the list. With regard to the pass man he is 23 years old, he took 4 years to pass the Intermediate examination, he secured 39 per cent. in English and 60 per cent. in Sanskrit in the class examination, was promoted to class IV and secured 40 per cent. in English and 72 per cent. in Sanskrit in the College examinations for the class and passed the B. A. degree held last April securing a second class certificate. I leave it to the House to decide who is the better man and whether a knowledge of English is as essential as the knowledge of Sanskrit.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): May I ask Mr. Stephenson whether an Honours graduate in Physics knows more English than an Honours graduate in Sanskrit? (*Laughter.*)

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I cannot answer unless I know the man.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I am asking a general question. Is not English, correct English, dignified King's English, not necessary to teach Physics? So I am putting this question.

PRESIDENT: It is common knowledge that those people who study for the Honours do not study English up to the same standard as pass B. A. students.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I see that answer, Sir. I am asking whether an Honours graduate in Physics knows more English than one who takes Honours degree in Sanskrit.

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[Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai]

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): With regard to an Honours graduate in Physics, his English is not in question. He has to deal only with English in the Laboratory when teaching Physics. But if he is to teach English, his knowledge must be precise and literary.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): What is the percentage of marks these two candidates obtained in the University Examination?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have not got the marks that they secured in the University Examination. Those marks are confidential and they could not be divulged.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*: Has Mr. Stephenson got the history of the College career of the other Professors and Assistant Professors and Tutors of the College?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): In many cases, yes. With regard to the appointments in the English schools, in some cases I call for information to decide between men who have the same degree.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether, in the case of Mr. Lenos and the son-in-law of Mr. Narayana Aiyar, a similar comparison was instituted?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I institute a comparison only when there is no obvious difference between two third-class men, for instance, Mr. Lenos is a third class graduate and Mr. Narayana Iyer's son-in-law is a first class graduate.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I sympathise with the position in which Mr. Stephenson is placed. He is obliged to defend a position which no man can defend. If we are to put a value on a University Degree of a high class, we have to value it for all practical purposes irrespective of the personal opinion of the persons who make the appointments. Personally, Sir, I know various gentlemen sitting in this House—

PRESIDENT: Just the contrary opinion was expressed by Mr. Lakshmana Pillai.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Yes, we differ in several things. (*Laughter.*)

What I am saying is that there are several gentlemen sitting on both sides of the House whose careers in the High School and College were not brilliant and they were studying along with persons who had distinguished High School and College careers. But in life, Sir, they have done, and they are doing, and they will be doing very much better than some of those men who merely got a first class. I can count tens and dozens of such men. Now, when that is the fact, simply because a boy in the lower class of the High School or College did not show sufficient application

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to his studies or there was some other circumstance, illness, pecuniary difficulties, want of proper encouragement on the part of parents—whatever be the reasons, if a boy did not come out so well as another, if after all his past High School and College career has been forgotten and when the University has certified his fitness; If then we are asked to go and dive deep and burrow things out and unearth arguments and facts which nobody can value, that is a mentality on which I cannot congratulate any officer of the Government.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Hear, hear.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Stephenson did not say that that was the only reason.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): He devoted considerable time over it.

PRESIDENT: The chief reason he mentioned was the larger percentage of marks which one candidate had. It was considered that for translation a higher knowledge of English was necessary.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): I know of gentlemen who are able to translate English into Sanskrit and Sanskrit into English very much better than first class men. So that, marks alone do not furnish a safe test. If Mr. Stephenson or the Principal of the Science College had sent for both the candidates and tested their respective capacities—or if the Principal did not know Sanskrit, by sending both persons to some gentleman of acknowledged eminence in both Sanskrit and English, that would be a different matter.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I do not know how he can be sure of his impartiality when he does not think that we are impartial?

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): For ordinary purposes, one can trust in the impartiality of persons. It is only when the arguments are so unconvincing, and the illogical nature of them lies on the surface, that we do not accept these arguments. But, in this particular case, we cannot trust them because there are the facts and there are wrong arguments supplied to meet them. So, there is considerable force in the arguments advanced by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.

I am very glad that there is no communal distinction in this question. I am obliged to Mr. Stephenson for the information that both are Nayars, and that no question of communal preference arose and that the Principal of the Science College is a Brahmin. But it would not do if there is merely the absence of any communal questions. Other tests especially that of efficiency should also be applied. There is the question of justice to be considered. Are we to revalue the University Degree according to the standard of Mr. Stephenson? The examinations were held in two years, the examiners were different and the standards were also different. The number of successful persons must also have been different.

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

PRESIDENT: The nature of the examination is different in the two cases. One is an Honors man and the other an ordinary pass B. A.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Which is the more searching examination in the Sanskrit Degree?

PRESIDENT: That is the point in issue.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): So, when a man has come out successful from fire, why not he be preferred to another without the like qualifications? I therefore support Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai's motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, only one additional fact has been brought forward by Mr. Stephenson which was not anticipated by me. That is to say he now says that for the purpose of translation a superior knowledge of English would be of greater value in the Science College. I suppose the translation is to be made from the Sanskrit Language into English and from English into Sanskrit. That being the case, to translate first of all from the Sanskrit Language, a correct knowledge of the Sanskrit Language is a prerequisite. Sanskrit, like English, is an idiomatic language,—its idiom, its grammar and purity—all these are factors which can only be appreciated by a scholar of Sanskrit. As for the knowledge of English, I am surprised to hear Mr. Stephenson emphasising that aspect. In view of the fact that the Science College has heaps of Professors daily dealing with the English Language, English literature, grammar and even the antiquarian interest of that language—

PRESIDENT: It is the knowledge of English with reference to the translation of Sanskrit into English that is required. What is the use of other people having proficiency in English when the Pandit himself is wanting in it? That is the standpoint.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The Pandit is not wanting in English. In a comparison, it would appear that one man has more proficiency than the other only in the eyes of the authorities.

PRESIDENT: The knowledge in English of the man who has pased the Pass B. A. is presumed to be greater than that of the Honors man. That is the point. Mr. Stephenson's point, I am afraid, has not been correctly understood. In the case of the Honors man who took Sanskrit as his subject, the knowledge of English is not of the same standard as that of the man who has taken a Pass Degree in the same subject.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): That is my point.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): In the case of all Honors men, according to Mr. Stephenson, their knowledge of English will necessarily be inferior to that of Pass course men.

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MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): My point is not that the knowledge of English of any Honors man is necessarily inferior to the knowledge of English of any Pass man, but that, on an average, it is likely to be inferior and that in this particular case it is.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai whether he knows the candidate and had occasion to test his proficiency in Sanskrit ?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): No. On the other hand, with respect to the Honors B. A. man, I know that his knowledge of English is quite sufficient, and that he is proficient in the Sanskrit language and the Malayalam language.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*) : May I know from Mr. Narayana Pillai how many years he was a teacher in the College?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): For nearly seven years.

So, I am submitting, Sir, that theories and arguments which fall very far short of conviction do not create any impression upon my mind. It is a belaboured argument that has been brought forward to support a vague and untenable position and I am very sorry I cannot see my way to withdraw the motion. So I press it.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I have got very little to add to what I have already said. I do not think that, as a matter of fact, there would have been any objection if the proper kind of man had been available. It may seem at first sight that a third class Honors man in Sanskrit is better than a second class Pass man with Sanskrit as his subject. But, on the other hand, the claims of the Honors man in English are decidedly less than the claims of the Pass man. As a matter of fact, the Pass man was better than the Honors man. Personally, I think this appointment has been rightly made. But, I cannot say whether all other appointments will be made according to this principle. I have nothing further to add.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): May I know from Mr. Stephenson what the place of translation in the Sanskrit Honors course is—*i. e.* translation from Sanskrit to English and *vice versa* ?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am afraid I do not know.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 21 *voting for* and 18 *against*.

Motion 215.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

215. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 91,823 for His Highness the Maha Rajah's College of Science and Arts by Rs. 100.

Sir, the object of my motion is to bring to the notice of the House the way in which collegiate education in Science is being made expensive to the people and the country. From the beginning of the current academic year, the College of Science has been allowed to monopolise for itself the historic and spacious pile of buildings from which the Arts section has been removed to the new building at Taikad. This was done, it is said, against the expressed opinion of the powers that be that rule the scientific department in the College, on the plea that the removal of the Arts would not provide accommodation for Science. Government are said to have overridden their opinion, and as if to prove that they had been in the right, the authorities in the Science College, it is said, refused admission to a large number of students. In the fight between the Science authorities and the Government, it was the people who really suffered in the end and the poor innocent students and their parents who paid the penalty. Ultimately, the Government, being the stronger authority, were able, it is said, to discover space enough to squeeze in another 50 students which space had escaped the telescopes and microscopes of our scientists. Meanwhile, the students were scattered helter-skelter, too late to benefit by the Government's accommodating spirits, for fear that they should be too late for admission into other colleges. Who suffers? The parents evidently who have to make monthly suicidal remittances to distant places. All the coquetry would have been in place if what the Science College offers is a substantial good. On the other hand, it is a notorious fact that the graduate is now a drug in the market. Nobody wants him. There is so much of over-production that the article could be had for a song. The monthly value of the graduate is going down as fast as the German mark did a few months ago. Even at this lowered price, there are no buyers. Unemployment seems to threaten the ruin of many families. Many expensively educated young men are being idle two and three years for lack of job which would bring them even Rs. 15 or Rs. 20. The rush on the Science branch too is a result of this unemployment. The belief runs that a Science Degree is more valuable in the industrial awakening in India. Indeed, the more Science graduates we have, the sooner, it is believed, will be the coming in of the industrial era. This is a false notion. Where do these Science graduates go in the end? We all know where they go—only into the vortex of clerical porfession or law. What does it matter to a clerk whether he can tell the difference between an acid and an alkali? His scientific training leads him nowhere. If there is to be any solution to the problem of unemployment, it must come more through commercial degrees than through anything else. Under such circumstances, when the authorities know that the kind of scientific education that is imparted leads to nothing very great, it is unfair to make it more and more expensive.

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This fallacy—the confusion of ideas that the Science graduate is the future creator of industrial India—is responsible for a great deal of mischief. If our Scientific education produces research scholars of such note that they would create new industries which would pour wealth and honor into our land, we should feel that no amount of money spent on them would be a waste. But nobody would claim such honors for the average product of our scientific laboratories. They have not started new industries. They have no research to their credit worth the name. On the other hand, science is only one way of securing a degree and of bombarding officers responsible for dispensing clerks' places. While that is so, the professors who are responsible for imparting scientific instruction are asking for staff and equipment on scales as if they were producing scientific geniuses who would recreate India and bring about the millenium. That is the reason why I have taken it upon myself to bring to the notice of the House the extravagant expenditure on the staff of the Science College. I would take the case of the Physics Department. Their work is parallel to that of the Chemistry Department. Yet there are only one Professor, one Assistant Professor, four Demonstrators—six in all—in that department; while in the Physics Department there are one Professor, two Assistant Professors and five Demonstrators—eight in all. Why is this disparity? Is it because the erstwhile Physics Professor is the Director of Public Instruction? A comparison of the staff with those of other Colleges teaching Science will show that the present Physics staff is superfluous. What does this show but reckless waste? With all that, the Physics Department is not admitting as many students as the Chemistry Department. I hope therefore that the Government would make the place of the second Assistant Professor in Physics provisional, in very truth, as it is already on paper, and bring him down to the Demonstrator's position to which he rightly belongs, and disband at least two of the Tutors recently employed, or, at least, find other work for them. This is absolutely necessary, for the Science Departments would take the cue from the Physics Department and ask for more staff. The Chemistry Department will ask for another Assistant Professor and Demonstrator and the Natural Science Department will ask for another Assistant Professor—two in all—one for botany and another for zoology—and three more Demonstrators. The Government is in the position of a parent of twins. He could not buy toys except in duplicates. Therefore the best way to avoid unnecessary expenditure is to effect a cut in the Physics Department as suggested by me.

I just want to say one or two words about the old college and the grievous wrong done to Dr. Thomas.

PRESIDENT: There remain only 15 minutes for the expiry of the time allotted to this demand.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want just two minutes more. There were a large number of non-Brahmins, a large number of Nayars and a few Christians whose names are very well known here, on the staff of the old college. I want also to refer to Mr. Thomas's case.

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The Government's reply was that the Director had said that his application escaped his scrutiny. Mr. Mammen Mappillai some time ago pressed for better representation in the Colleges for Christians and others and the reply given was that those gentlemen who shined very brilliantly in South India and other parts of British India did not care to go over here. Here is the specific case of Dr. P. J. Thomas, a son of the soil, asking for an employment in the College. Some excuse is being made that his application escaped attention. There is not a single Catholic on the staff of the College. Here was an opportunity to appoint a Catholic. I sent my interpellation seven months ago. I once again say that here was an opportunity if there was good faith and good feeling on the part of the authorities to provide for Dr. Thomas. We have lost a great educationist and lost him for ever. I know that Dr. Thomas has sent reminders even to the Director of Public Instruction.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Can I have the date of the reminder?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not know the date. That he reminded the Director is correct information. We had a large European staff in the College. Now there is only one European and the present Director is the second European in the Education Department. The prestige of the European is being weighed in the balance. I was very sorry to hear some questions that have been asked and statements made about the European head of the Department. We expect a great deal from him. There is disappointment and bitter feeling among the representatives of the country in the matter of appointments and prestige in the Department.

MR. JOHN MACKIE (*Planters*): May I ask which appointments?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Professors, Lecturers, Demonstrators, etc. I must, at the same time, say to the credit of the Government that they are extremely sympathetic in the matter. I knew that, when I represented the case of Mr. Mathew, the Dewan was also sympathetic in this matter. He made a splendid stand in the matter of the bifurcation of the College. What we want is some sympathy on the part of the head of the Department. The very same sympathy that is shown by the Head of the Administration in this matter should be shown by the head of the Department, the Inspector of Schools and the Assistant Inspectors of schools. With these few remarks, I beg to withdraw my motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I object to the withdrawal. We want to hear the official member before it is withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: You object to the withdrawal?

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MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, I do not propose to make a long speech with regard to the College. I would first of all refer to the last remark of Mr. Hoogewerf in which he referred to the desirability of the Head of the Department being sympathetic and sympathetic generally. I can assure the House of my sympathy.

Then with regard to the expensiveness of the staff of the Science College which Mr. Hoogewerf referred to, and the discrepancy between the staff for Physics and Chemistry, I would point out that the Physics branch has more students than the Chemistry branch.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May, I know how many Professors and Assistant Professors there are in the Presidency College which teaches up to the Honours Course?

PRESIDENT: Your point was that the Physics staff in the Science College was stronger than the Chemistry staff.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to ask—

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have not got figures here for the Presidency College; but I have got the *University Calendar*. I have noted the figures for the St. Joseph's College.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Up to what standard do they give instruction there?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They teach up to the Honours Class. There they have got seventeen persons to teach both Chemistry and Physics.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How many of them for Physics?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Both together 17.

PRESIDENT: 8 and 9.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): May I know how many Christians and Nayars there are on the staff of the Science College in the Physics branch at present?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): One Nayar and one Christian.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how many Tutors there are?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): There are no Tutors, but only Demonstrators.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know how many Professors and Assistant Professors there are in the Presidency College which teaches up to Honours Course in Science?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I have got the Calendar for 1924 which gives the staff for 1923. There

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is one Professor for Physics, as also one Additional Professor, two Assistant Professors and one temporary Assistant Professor.

PRESIDENT: They do not keep salaried Demonstrators there.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): No, I am afraid. The staff is very much bigger than ours.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): The staff is only five.

PRESIDENT: The Demonstrators are omitted there as they get only honoraria and not salaries.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I will look up.

PRESIDENT: What is the strength of the class?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Big. 850 strong.

PRESIDENT: What is the strength of the Physics class?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I do not know.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know the strength of the Chemistry and Physics classes here?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): We have 591 students taking Chemistry and 630 taking Physics. We have got a larger number taking Physics and Chemistry than any other college in the Presidency and the staff we have budgeted for is 8 for Chemistry and 9 for Physics.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: Let him complete his statement.

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): For Physics and Chemistry combined we have 17 hands. When the combined staff was 11, we had 415 for Physics and 377 for Chemistry. At St. Joseph's, Trichinopoly, for 562 doing Physics and 483 doing Chemistry the staff provided numbered 17.—

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do they teach up to the Honours Course in the Colleges?

MR. J. STEPHENSON (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): We do not. Sir, Mr. Hoogewerf said that it was his intention to draw attention to the college staff. I can assure Mr. Hoogewerf that the matter has been very carefully considered and that the staff proposed is the very least for maintaining the efficiency of the College. The number of students doing Physics has increased from 420 to 630. Additional provision has been made for them. Recommendations for the increase in staff were very carefully made and I can assure the House that only what was absolutely necessary was recommended for sanction.

PRESIDENT: Now I hope the House has no objection to the withdrawal of the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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PRESIDENT: The time allotted to this demand is over. I now put the demand to the vote of the House.

The question is that a sum of Rs. 33·67 lakhs *minus* Rs. 200 be granted under Demand XII—Education. I take it that the Council sanctions the demand.

The grant was made.

Motions 216 to 245.

The following motions lapsed on account of the expiry of the period allotted for the demand:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

216. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,679 for His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Women by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

217. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,15,783 for Collegiate Education by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

218. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,15,783 for Collegiate Education by Rs. 100.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

219. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 58,750 for establishment by (the pay of 9 additional teachers) Rs. 5,400.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

220. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,640 for manual training expenses by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

221. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,00,062 for English School Education by Rs. 100.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

222. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,00,062 for English School Education by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

223. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 22,344 for Bhagavatars in vernacular schools for girls by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI:

224. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 14,800 under lump provision by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

225. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,73,215 for Vernacular School Education by Rs. 100.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

226. To omit the allotment of Rs. 7,000 for special school for Malayala Brahmins.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

227. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,059 for establishment under Caste Hindu Hostel by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

228. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,919 for Hostel attached to the College for Women by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

229. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,800 for Training College Hostel by Rs. 100.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI:

230. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 23,768 under Hostels by Rs. 100.

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[Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai.]

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

231. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 800 for travelling allowances by Rs. 500.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

232. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,700 for Text Book Committee by Rs. 100.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

233. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,000 under Examinations by Rs. 9,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

234. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,000 under Examinations by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

235. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 18,000 for maintenance grants to English schools for boys by Rs. 3,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

236. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 33,000 for grants-in aid to English schools for girls by Rs. 5,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

237. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,32,000 for grants-in-aid to vernacular schools for boys by Rs. 50,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

238. To omit the allotment of Rs. 9,000 for grants for furniture and appliances.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

239 To omit the allotment of Rs. 14,000 for grants for buildings.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

240. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,000 for stipends in the Training College by Rs. 10,000.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

241. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,300 under sale of Macmillan Readers by Rs. 500.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR:

242. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

THE REV. FR. KURIAKOSE VETTIKKAPALLI:

243. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

244. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN:

245. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 33·67 lakhs under Demand XII by Rs. 100.

DEMAND XIII—AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Ag. Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·57 lakhs under Demand XIII—Agriculture and Fisheries.

Motions 246 to 253.

The following motions were not moved:—

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